



# LETTER FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

## October 31, 2017



Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent

Whether you are a student, parent, District employee or community member, now more than ever it is important that we all work together to defend and support our public schools.

At the heart of our democracy is the belief that every child deserves a free, public education regardless of individual life circumstances or social economic status. Education is the great equalizer, allowing our youth to turn their dreams into reality. Each day, in Broward County alone, more than 271,500 students rely on our District’s outstanding teachers, administrators and staff to provide a high-quality education that will prepare them for their futures.

This is a tremendous responsibility, and one that our District takes seriously. We are working hard every day to provide all students with safe, secure and innovative educational environments that motivate our students in ways they want to learn. I am extremely proud of the work we are doing across Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) to support our students. We are making great progress, with increased academic achievements, graduation rates that are the highest in five years, and advanced placement pass rates that are the highest in a decade.

In 2011, when I became Superintendent of BCPS, our District was facing enormous challenges. Public trust had deteriorated, the District was facing a potential \$66 million fine for not complying with Class Size Reduction, BCPS led the entire state of Florida in student arrests and expulsions, and student enrollment had declined by more than 8,100 students between 2008 and 2011. In addition, state budget cuts, skyrocketing healthcare costs and operational inefficiencies created a bleak financial situation, causing the District to implement layoffs and furloughs for employees.

Fast forward six years, with the support of a dynamic School Board, effective leadership, dedicated employees, and incredible community support, we are moving forward on the right path. We created and recently recalibrated our District’s strategic plan, maintaining our focus on high-quality instruction, continuous improvement and effective communication. Through our strategic efforts, we are changing perceptions, increasing expectations and creating bright futures for our children.

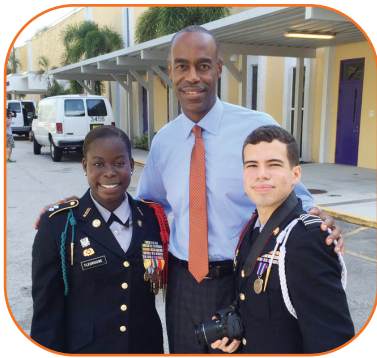
BCPS has come a long way since 2011. Inside this booklet is a snapshot of just some of our District’s incredible accomplishments over the past six years. I am extremely humbled and proud of everyone involved in the success of our students – from our teachers, administrators and staff – to our parents, volunteers, and community and business partners. Every child has a gift for the world; let’s continue working together to help them unwrap it.

Sincerely,

Robert W. Runcie  
Broward County Public Schools Superintendent

Look inside for  **#BCPS**Proud Highlights





# #BCPSProud

October 31, 2017



## ➔ IMPROVING ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

- Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) graduation rate is the highest in five years.
- BCPS school grades show continued improvements. In 2016/17:
  - 96 percent of schools earned an “A,” “B” or “C.”
  - 95 percent of schools maintained or increased their letter grade.
  - 59 schools earned an “A,” an increase from 41 in 2016. Of these schools, 39 maintained their “A” from 2016.
  - 13 schools increased by two or more letter grades.
  - BCPS reduced the number of schools earning a “D” or “F.” Only two schools earned an “F,” compared to 10 in 2016. Six schools earned a “D,” compared to 29 the prior year.



**50,000+ STUDENTS**  
engaged in computer science and more than 1,000 teachers trained in computer science.  
[browardschools.com/browardcodes](http://browardschools.com/browardcodes)

## ➔ ENHANCING LEARNING THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

- In 2013, BCPS became the first district in the nation to partner with Code.org to increase students’ access to computer science. BCPS is now a national model for computer science in schools with courses, curriculum and activities in 100 percent of District schools – and reaching 50,000 students in 2017/18.
- The Digital Classrooms Initiative, launched in 2013/14 with 27 schools, now includes 100 elementary schools, offering a blended and personalized learning environment to maximize learning.
- More BCPS middle schools are now offering the Global Scholars program, with 19 schools in 2017/18. This program connects BCPS students with their peers around the world as they share information and learn about cultures and important global issues.



**LARGEST DEBATE INITIATIVE**  
in the nation - with approximately 12,000 elementary, middle and high school students participating in 2017/18.  
[browardschools.com/debate](http://browardschools.com/debate)

## ➔ EXPANDING INNOVATIVE PROGRAMS

- More District schools now offer Dual Language programs, increasing from four schools in 2011/12 to 41 schools in 2017/18.
- BCPS is the largest school district in the nation to offer chess for every second grade student to develop critical thinking skills, plus resources for chess clubs for grades K-12.
- BCPS is the only school district in Florida invited by the President’s Committee on the Arts and Humanities to participate in its Turnaround Arts Programs. This initiative uses the arts to improve student achievement.

## ➔ IMPROVING COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS

- The Advanced Placement (AP) pass rate is the highest in more than 10 years.
- In 2016/17, more than 9,200 industry certifications were earned by middle and high school students. BCPS technical college students also earned the most industry certifications in the state.
- 2017/18 marks the third year that BCPS is offering SAT testing day for all 11th grade students, allowing them to take the college admission assessment during the school day at no cost.





# #BCPSProud

October 31, 2017



- The District offers Naviance Family Connection, an interactive online planning tool, to all middle and high school students and their families, to help students develop career goals through academic planning, and college and career exploration.

## ➔ INCREASING POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS

- BCPS is now a national leader for school discipline reform for ending zero tolerance policies for nonviolent offences in schools – and for increasing the District’s focus on appropriate, targeted interventions and mentoring programs.
- The District transformed itself from having the highest number of school-related arrests in the state in 2011, to having one of the lowest rates of arrest in the state. Between 2014 and 2016, school-related arrests across BCPS decreased by approximately 78 percent. In addition, since 2011 suspensions have been reduced by more than 60 percent.
- The Superintendent and District staff continue to receive invitations from around the country, including from The White House and Federal Office of Civil Rights, to share details about the historic reforms instituted in BCPS.

- The SMART technology initiative reflects an investment of more than \$67.5 million.
- Since the start of the SMART program, 33,127 instruments and musical equipment items have been delivered to District schools, with 24,259 more items ordered and on the way to schools. This represents an investment of more than \$17 million to ensure BCPS students have the instruments they need to develop and enhance their music education.

## ➔ MAXIMIZING OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCIES

- For the past three years, BCPS has remained in compliance with Class Size Reduction requirements, with no financial penalties from the state. In 2011, the District faced a potential \$66 million fine for noncompliance.
- BCPS has significantly improved student transportation services, while simultaneously reducing operating costs by more than \$9 million from 2011-2016.
- Since transitioning to a self-insured medical plan in 2013, BCPS has saved more than \$30 million and employees have not had to pay a contribution for employee only medical premiums.
- The District received the highest bond ratings in a decade from Standard & Poor’s and Moody’s.

## ➔ CONNECTING WITH OUR COMMUNITY

- Over the past six years, District leadership and staff have spent thousands of hours attending and hosting town hall-style meetings, and parent, student and community engagement events and activities to provide updates and to receive feedback on the District’s initiatives and priorities.

**SAFETY  
MUSIC & ART  
ATHLETICS  
RENOVATION  
TECHNOLOGY**

### SMART BOND PROGRAM

is moving forward and on track to be completed within five to seven years as originally promised.  
[browardschools.com/smartfutures](http://browardschools.com/smartfutures)

## ➔ MOVING FORWARD WITH THE SMART (SAFETY, MUSIC & ART, ATHLETICS, RENOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY) PROGRAM

- 1,191 school facilities projects are in progress or complete as of September 30, 2017. This reflects an investment of more than \$844 million and 87 percent of all SMART facilities projects.
- The SMART technology initiative is now completed, under budget and ahead of schedule, with schools receiving new infrastructure/network equipment, wireless access points, and more than 83,000 new computer devices.





## FIRST FLORIDA SCHOOL DISTRICT

to earn the prestigious Districtwide Accreditation from AdvancEd in 1962. BCPS proudly earned re-accreditation in 2016/17.



GREAT DISTRICT FOR GREAT TEACHERS

## BCPS NAMED A 2017 GREAT DISTRICT FOR GREAT TEACHERS

by the National Council on Teacher Quality.



**LARGEST PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**  
in the nation



**271,500+**  
diverse pre-K - 12th grade students



**LARGEST PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**  
in Florida



**191**  
different languages spoken by BCPS students from 204 countries



**234**  
innovative schools, centers and technical colleges

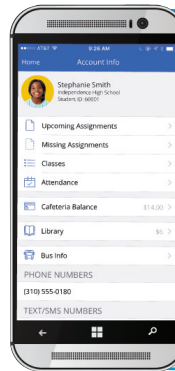


**34,000+**  
dedicated employees, including more than 15,000 instructional personnel



## NAVIANCE FAMILY CONNECTION

Start planning for your student's future through this online college and career planning tool available to all BCPS middle and high school students. Visit [browardschools.com/naviance](http://browardschools.com/naviance).

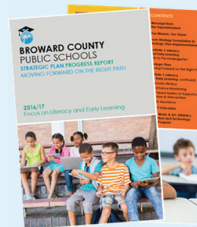


## BCPS Mobile App

With the free BCPS mobile app, you can see student grades and much more! See your child's information through your smart device anytime, anywhere. To register, visit [browardschools.com/mobileapp](http://browardschools.com/mobileapp).



Our District values include the tenets that all students learn when their individual needs are met, that the diversity of our community is valued and embraced, and the assurance of equitable education and resources. To learn more, visit [browardschools.com/immigrantsupportplan](http://browardschools.com/immigrantsupportplan).



## Strategic Plan Progress Report

The Strategic Plan Progress Report 2016/17 (Year One) provides a summary of the implementation status of key initiatives associated with the Literacy and Early Learning focus area. To learn more, visit [browardschools.com/stratplan](http://browardschools.com/stratplan).

## Connect with BCPS:

@browardschools facebook.com/browardschools browardschools.com

**The School Board of Broward County, Florida** Robin Bartleman • Heather P. Brinkworth • Abby M. Freedman • Patricia Good • Donna P. Korn • Laurie Rich Levinson • Ann Murray • Dr. Rosalind Osgood • Nora Rupert • Robert W. Runcie, Superintendent of Schools

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