

# On the Right Track



Established 1915  
**BROWARD**  
County Public Schools

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## We are #BCPSProud



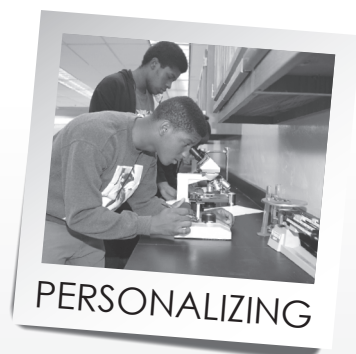
**Broward County Public Schools (BCPS)** continually receives recognition for excellence in education.

- BCPS Superintendent Robert W. Runcie is honored by the National Alliance of Black School Educators with its 2016 Joseph E. Hill Superintendent of the Year award. The award honors superintendents who have demonstrated leadership that resulted in positive outcomes for students of African descent.
- BCPS is the first fully accredited school district in Florida since 1962. Recently an External Review Team comprised of educational leaders from around the country visited BCPS and recommended to the AdvanceEd Commission that BCPS continue to be awarded the prestigious districtwide accreditation.

To view the complete report by the External Review Team visit:

[broward.k12.fl.us/ospa/initiatives.asp?initiative\\_id=4](http://broward.k12.fl.us/ospa/initiatives.asp?initiative_id=4).

- BCPS is the only school district in Florida – and the only large urban District in the nation – to receive a new Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The grant totals \$53,808,909, and supports the District's use of performance-based compensation and other strategies to increase students' access to effective educators in high-needs schools.
- In the eighth annual statewide Florida Green School and District Recognition Program, sponsored by the Florida Green School Network partners, BCPS proudly earned a Silver ranking and Driftwood Middle School was chosen as a Florida Green School winner.



## Connecting with our Community

Ensuring parents/guardians, community members and other stakeholders have access to resources, services and information about the District is a key component to student success.



### EdTalk 2016/17 Community Forum

- More than 500 parents, students, employees, business leaders, local leaders and community members participated in Ed Talk 2016/17. The event took place at the Greater Fort Lauderdale/Broward County Convention Center on November 5, 2016, and included topics such as social justice and reimagining education.

Learn more at: [browardschools.com/edtalk](http://browardschools.com/edtalk).

411

### 411 on Parent Engagement Conference

- Parents, employees and community members from across the District participated in the 411 on Parent Engagement Conference on November 19, 2016. Topics included: Educational Technology; Naviance – Family Connection; Booster Clubs 2.0; Designer Drugs – Taking the Wind Out of Their Sales and Keeping Our Kids Safe; Building Community; and Outstanding Customer Service in Schools.



### Next Gen Engage Series of Student Forums

- BCPS kicked off the Next Gen Engage series on November 10, 2016. This was the first of a seven-part series where School Board members, the Superintendent and community leaders host a student-led town hall style meeting. The event provides the District feedback directly from students. Students and community members are invited to join upcoming Next Gen Engage events.

Learn more at: [browardschools.com/bcpsnextgen](http://browardschools.com/bcpsnextgen).



## Attendance Counts! All Day, Every Day!

- The District celebrated its inaugural Attendance Symposium on September 30, 2016, at the Faith Center in Fort Lauderdale. Over 900 educators, District staff, community-based agencies, community leaders, faith-based representatives, law enforcement, elected officials, parents and students participated. The symposium provided information on the importance of school attendance and how chronic absenteeism impacts the entire community.

Learn more at:

[browardstudentservices.com/attendance-campaign-resources/](http://browardstudentservices.com/attendance-campaign-resources/).



## Supporting Gifted and Talented Students

- More than 1,100 teachers, administrators, parents and community members attended the annual South Florida Gifted and Talented Symposium on September 23, 2016. The Symposium included over 50 sessions on topics ranging from how to meet the social/emotional needs of gifted students to increasing hands-on STEM activities in classrooms.

Learn more at:

[browardschools.com/bcpsshines/gifted-symposium-16](http://browardschools.com/bcpsshines/gifted-symposium-16).

## Prioritizing Early Learning and Literacy



**BCPS is increasing its strategic emphasis on early learning and literacy to support a solid foundation for our youngest learners. The District's efforts include:**

- Increasing the availability of full day Voluntary Pre-K (VPK) programs from 30 classes in 2015/16 to 40 classes in 2016/17.
- Providing direct support to over 450 BCPS pre-K classes, including Head Start, Early Head Start, Pre-K Exceptional Student Education (ESE), VPK and Career Technical programs.
- Supporting 1,400 children across 18 community early childhood centers through the Early Learning Coalition Road to Child Outcomes grant.
- Working with the Children's Services Council of Broward County, Early Learning Coalition, United Way and Broward County Commission to lead the Broward Reads Campaign for Grade Level Reading, which focuses on third grade proficiency.

Learn more at:

[browardschools.com/departments/earlychildhoodeducation](http://browardschools.com/departments/earlychildhoodeducation).

## Preparing Students for College and Careers



### Thousands Attend BCPS College Fair

- More than 4,000 students and parents attended the District's second annual College Fair on October 20, 2016.
- The BCPS College Fair included admission representatives from 152 national and international, public and private, and two-year and four-year colleges and universities. Workshops also offered information on admissions requirements, financial aid, course offerings and campus environments.

Learn more at:

[browardschools.com/bcpsshines/college-fair-16](http://browardschools.com/bcpsshines/college-fair-16).



### Increasing National Academy Foundation Programs for Students

- With the support of the Career, Technical, Adult and Community Education Department, District schools added 12 new National Academy Foundation (NAF) academies this year, including the first NAF Criminal Justice Academies in the nation at McArthur High School and Fort Lauderdale High School.
- BCPS now offers over 30 NAF academies in the areas of information technology (computer science), health science, engineering, hospitality and tourism, finance and criminal justice.
- NAF academies offer small learning communities within schools. Students experience rigorous, career-focused curriculum tied to real-world engagement opportunities with business professionals and internships.

Learn more at:

[browardschools.com/departments/ctace](http://browardschools.com/departments/ctace).



BCPS joined millions to participate in the world's largest reading experience – Jumpstart's Read for the Record® – in reading the book, *The Bear Ate Your Sandwich*. Through a partnership between BCPS, the Children's

Services Council, and multiple

Broward County early childhood stakeholders, a free copy of the book was provided to each pre-kindergarten and kindergarten child in Broward County. That's 40,000 books for 40,000 children!

## Focusing on the Whole Child



### Social and Emotional Learning

- BCPS strives to provide all students with a college and career ready education characterized by safe, caring and well-managed learning environments.
- Helping students develop social and emotional skills prepares them to be resilient and achieve individual success academically, interpersonally and throughout their lives.
- The District's social and emotional learning initiative promotes targeted instructional strategies and infusing skills into academic activities to help students recognize emotions, demonstrate care and concern for others, establish positive relationships, make responsible decisions, and constructively handle challenging social situations.

Learn more at:

[browardprevention.org/instructional-strategies/social-emotional-learning/](http://browardprevention.org/instructional-strategies/social-emotional-learning/).



### Mentoring Across Broward

- Mentoring is recognized as an important and effective intervention strategy to support student academic success and social emotional development.
- The Equity and Academic Attainment Department has implemented a comprehensive mentoring initiative called Mentoring Across Broward, to provide opportunities for all students to benefit from mentoring relationships with caring peers and adults.
- Youth Mentoring programs provide opportunities for individuals and organizations to meet one-on-one and in small groups with students on the school campus during the school day. School mentoring programs address the needs of specific populations of students and draw upon the expertise of school administrators and community stakeholders to support identified student populations. Community mentoring programs provide additional mentoring opportunities for students who can benefit from being involved in a positive, mentoring relationship.



### Community Foundation of Broward Donates Over \$1 Million to BCPS Middle Schools and Nonprofit Partners

- Thirteen BCPS middle schools and nonprofit partners share a \$1 million Community Foundation of Broward grant for the 2016/17 School is Cool 2.0 initiative. The generous funding supports school day programs for struggling middle school students to improve their attendance, behavior and course performance.
- The School is Cool 2.0 programs are customized to meet the academic and social-emotional learning needs of students.
- In addition, the Community Foundation of Broward donated \$50,000 to BCPS to support the implementation of School is Cool 2.0 Attendance Awareness. Participating middle schools designed a variety of activities to increase awareness about the importance of being in school all day, every day.

## Moving Forward with SMART



### The SMART program, which includes funding from the \$800 million General Obligation Bond and existing capital resources, is on track to be completed within five to seven years, as originally promised.

- Two years following voter approval and only 1.5 years since the first series of bonds were issued in June 2015 (providing the initial funding for the SMART program), more than 770 school facilities projects are in progress and more than 56,000 new computer devices installed at schools. In addition, 140 school choice enhancement projects are underway.
- Community members can follow the progress of SMART projects at specific schools by visiting [browardschools.com/school-info/smartschools](http://browardschools.com/school-info/smartschools).

Learn more about the SMART program at [browardschools.com/smartfutures](http://browardschools.com/smartfutures).

Check out Volume 1 of *On the Right Track* at:

[browardschools.com/parents-students/parent-student-pages/on-the-right-track](http://browardschools.com/parents-students/parent-student-pages/on-the-right-track)



**browardschools.com**  
**Public Information Office • 754-321-2300**

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