

## **SpringBoard Program Description**

SpringBoard is a curriculum program for grades 6 – 12 that incorporates rigorous standards, professional development, instructional resources, and diagnostic assessments. It was created by College Board. In the School District of Palm Beach County, SpringBoard will be used as a school choice option – School-Within-a-School. In the School-Within-a-School program students are part of a “special cadre” where teachers develop close and supportive relationships with each student. In addition, the ongoing professional development and diagnostic assessments of SpringBoard will allow teachers to more accurately assess and address the strengths and weaknesses of their students.

Sixty-nine students in each of 13 middle schools, 92 students in each of four high schools, 46 students in grades six and seven at Village Academy, and 46 middle school students at Pahokee (23 students per grade level in grades 6 – 12) are enrolled in math and language arts courses taught by SpringBoard trained teachers. Students are selected for the classes based on the following criteria:

- First – Students who have been provided the “choice” option and have chosen this School-Within-A-School choice
- Second – Students needing assistance, with priority going to students who scored Level 1 or Level 2 on the FY05 FCAT who might or might not have selected the tutoring choice option

Forty-four Math and 45 Language Arts teachers will implement SpringBoard in their classrooms. A total of 117 teachers have been trained, so there are back-up teachers available if needed. They will also meet for required joint planning. SpringBoard teachers at School-Within-a-School sites will have the same group of students at each grade level so that they can intensely assist their learners in the academic process. Each teacher will be limited to 23 students. The students will move from class to class, as in a regular secondary setting. The teachers will be hand-selected by the principal and committed for a minimum of three years in order to most effectively implement the Springboard program. The Department of Safe Schools will provide assistance in various forms; (e.g., through the Learning Team Facilitators, a School-Within-a-School coordinator, other Safe Schools’ staff).

The overarching goal of SpringBoard is to provide students with the skills and competencies to be prepared for college success and to be better prepared to participate in advanced courses such as: Advanced Placement, Honors, International Baccalaureate, Advanced Placement (AP) courses. For our District purposes, because SpringBoard has back-mapped from grades 12 – 6, the skills and competencies students need to become proficient, SpringBoard will be the vehicle to move lower performing students toward proficiency.