

Name of District: The School District of Palm Beach County

Number of Schools: 189

Number of Students: 183,711

Wellness Promotion Task Force:

The School District of Palm Beach County has a strong Wellness Promotion Task Force which is comprised of internal district employees and external community partners. Through the collaboration, a yearly Wellness Promotion Policy (WPP) Annual Report is created to document the wellness initiatives occurring in our district utilizing a web-based platform allowing for global access. Use the following link to access the 9th WPP Annual Report <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/annualreport/2015wellness/index.html> (Within the Introduction Tab, there is an archive section that houses the six previous Annual Reports.) <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/sfs/wptf-meeting-archive.asp>

School Health Advisory Committee:

SHAC and wellness teams are separate. The SHAC in Palm Beach County uses a model for reviewing school health programs recommended by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC). Known as "The Coordinated School Health Model". The components, when looked at in a coordinated manner, have been found to be highly effective in addressing the health risk behaviors that contribute significantly to the leading causes of death, disability, and social problems among youth.

The SHAC serves as an active voice for improving the health of school children by being an advocate for and supporting quality, coordinated health services and education programs and policies. Over the decades, the SHAC in Palm Beach County has played an important role in many issues crucial to student health and welfare. In the 1990s, SHAC focused emphasis on health education and school nurse services. It was a strong proponent of a nurse in every public school that was achieved in 1997 when the Health Care District PBC made the commitment to provide funding and joined the local school district and health department as a partner in the school health program.

- This past decade, the SHAC's goals have been oriented to support efforts focused on nutrition, physical education and health education and included school board workshops on those topics. Recently focus was shifted to address the needs of students with behavioral and mental health concerns.
- Key partners include: The Florida Department of Health, The Health Care District, The School District of Palm Beach County, local Medical Centers, Palm Beach State College, South University and local non-profit health orientated organizations.

For more information, email: wellness@palmbeachschools.org

Palm Beach County Highlight

- The School District of Palm Beach County was the winner of the 2014–2015 U.S. Department of Education **Green Ribbon Schools Award** received on November 16, 2015. Officials with the U.S. Department of Education recognized the District’s efforts for reducing environmental costs, improving the health and wellness of students and staff, and providing effective environmental and sustainability education.
- The School District of Palm Beach County **Wellness Promotion Task Force** has continued to create an educational forum that allows District and community partners to successfully collaborate in the promotion of healthier lives. We continue to encourage a proactive approach to holistically address the health, wellness, and safety of all school children, staff, parents, and the community. In 2014–2015 and in 2015–2016, the Task Force met have met numerous times to present and discuss wellness topics and opportunities. The following links are available for further review of meetings held. <http://www.palmbeachschools.org/annualreport/2014wellness/wellness-promotion-policy-task-force-minutes.html>.
<https://wcms.palmbeachschools.org/sfs/wellness/>
- The School District of Palm Beach County received 1st Place for the **SUNSPRA Sunshine Medallion Award** in the 2014 and 2015 for Best Annual Report/Handbook for its Wellness Promotion Policy Annual Report and its School Food Service Annual Report. During 2014 the district was awarded the **USDA Best Practices Award** for Fiscal Management. Again in 2015 they were awarded the **USDA Best Practices Award**; this time in the category of Increasing Participation in School Lunch or Breakfast.
- In the 2014–2015 school year, the School Food Service Department piloted an **Afterschool Meals Program** at four District schools; C.O. Taylor/Kirklane Elementary, Forest Park Elementary, Highland Elementary, and Hope–Centennial Elementary. The program, funded by the United States Department of Agriculture and administered by the Department of Health, Bureau of Child Care Food Programs, is designed to provide a nutritious meal to children in after school programs. It is available to schools in which at least 50% of the enrolled children are eligible for free or reduced–price meals and where regularly scheduled educational or enrichment activities are structured and supervised.
- The HealthierUS School Challenge SmarterLunchrooms (HUSSC: SL) is a voluntary 4 year certification initiative recognizing schools that created

healthier school environments through promotion of smarter lunchrooms, nutrition, and physical activity. Schools may submit applications for bronze, silver, or gold award distinction. Schools at all award levels demonstrate through their application how they go above and beyond Federal requirements to impact the entire school nutrition environment. Awarded schools receive a plaque with a certificate signed by the Secretary of the US Department of Agriculture, a hanging banner, recognition on USDA's Team Nutrition website, and a monetary incentive. In the 2014–2015 school year 38 elementary schools in Palm Beach County received the Bronze level award.

- As of 2015, the School District has achieved **Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED)** certification for ten schools through the USGBC and one school by the Florida Green Building Coalition. Of the ten schools, one received LEED Platinum certification (the highest certification level possible), five schools achieved LEED Gold, two LEED Silver, and two are USGBC Certified. Three other elementary school projects are anticipated to achieve LEED ratings this year, as well. In the first project of its kind, the District was awarded LEED for Existing Buildings, Operations & Maintenance for Heritage Elementary School in early 2014.
- The School District is fortunate to have a **School Nurse in every regular school** including nursing service support for the alternative and charter schools. The primary goal of this program is to advance the well-being, academic success, and life-long achievement of all students. In the 2014–2015 school year, Health Care District school nurses and health support technicians **performed 136,229 state mandated screenings for vision, hearing, scoliosis and body mass index.**
- The School District of Palm Beach County in partnership with FAU's Pine Jog Environmental Center, celebrates its 7th year in implementing the **Green Schools Recognition Program (GSRP)**. This program reaches schools across 40 cities in Florida. Together, this partnership has recognized over 100 schools for their "green" efforts since the program's 2008 inception. GSRP inspires students and teachers to move toward community-based environmental stewardship through sustainability practices, community involvement, curriculum integration, outdoor classrooms and administrative support. These green practices have helped to create a healthy school environment District-wide. Recognition was given to 16 "Green Schools of Promise", 23 "Green Schools of Quality", and 40 "Green Schools of Excellence". These levels illustrate that "going green" is a journey, and that schools should be acknowledged for their efforts along the way.
- In collaboration with the Environmental Conservation Services Department, the Maintenance and Plant Operations Department and the Risk Management and Safety Department, the School Food Service

Department created the FY16 version of the **School Garden Development Guide**. Working together as a team we incorporated our various areas of expertise and discussed how we could build upon the guide created in FY15 to make it more robust. The guide was rearranged to walk the reader through the logical steps of creating a school garden. In addition to the many benefits of having school gardens we encouraged readers to plan ahead, to create a team, and a sustainability plan early on in the process to ensure their garden's success. Readers are encouraged to use their garden as an outdoor classroom and to reach out to parents and community members for additional support. Just like flowers, veggies, fruits and herbs, we're still growing and already preparing for our next revision scheduled for release in FY17. <https://wcms.palmbeachschools.org/sfs/gardens/>

- The **Hazard Communication Program (HAZCOM)** at the School District of Palm Beach County complies with the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Hazard Communication Standard, Title 29 Code of Federal Regulations 1910.1200. The Environmental & Conservation Services (ECS) Department carries out the HAZCOM program through a successful partnership between the District's Maintenance & Plant Operations, Risk & Benefits Management and a team of District science, arts, and academic programs specialists. ECS is also responsible for reviewing and updating the program, as necessary. The purpose of HAZCOM is to communicate chemical hazards in the workplace to employees. This is done using safety data sheets SDS's (hazardous chemical fact sheets), ensuring that chemical containers are properly labeled and providing other forms of warning and training to our employees.
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- **Wellness Champions** at schools and departments assist in the coordination of staff wellness initiatives by sharing health information, engaging participation in district–sponsored wellness programs and creating excitement around leading a healthy lifestyle. There has been a

steady increase in **participation from 22 Wellness Champions in the 2006–2007 school year to 215 in the 2014–2015 school year.**

- **The Alliance for a Healthier Generation Healthy Schools Program** provides tools, resources and support to inspire students, staff and families to develop lifelong, healthy habits. In the 2013–2014 school year Forest Hill Elementary received the **Silver National Recognition Award** and Manatee Elementary received the **Bronze National Recognition Award** for transforming their campuses into healthy places for students and staff. In 2014–2015 Equestrian Trails Elementary, South Olive Elementary, SD Spady Elementary, and Timber Trace Elementary received the **Bronze National Recognition Award.**
- The School District of Palm Beach County is the fifth largest district in the state of Florida. The School Food Service Department has been proactive in implementing various avenues for students to have access to nutritious meals to include: **Offering breakfast at no cost for all schools, an afterschool snack program at more than 100 sites, an afterschool supper program at 19 elementary and one middle school, and a Fresh Fruit & Vegetable program at 14 elementary schools.**
- The School Food Service Department has been successful in implementing their **Power Up With Breakfast campaign** since its inception in the 2006–2007 school year. This program allows every student to eat a free breakfast every day, regardless of socioeconomic status. In the 2014–2015 school year, over **7,975,075** breakfasts were served to students (**over 33,400 more than year before**).
- The School Food Service (SFS) Department reached out and partnered with local farmers to create a **Farm to School** bid. For the past 8 years the Palm Beach County School Food Service Department has expanded the program and now offers fresh, local corn cobbettes, green beans, yellow squash, zucchini, carrots, strawberries, navel oranges, honey tangerines, mini sweet peppers and grape tomatoes.
- From best use of produce to best new garden, four Palm Beach district operated schools were among 10 recognized by Commissioner Adam H. Putnam for their outstanding school gardens, with the inaugural “Golden Shovel” award. The winners were selected from 100 applications by schools in 23 counties. School applications included criteria including the garden’s aesthetics, novel features and its production and yield.

Palm Beach County’s winners were:

Best New Garden, Elementary Division: Freedom Shores Elementary,
Boynton Beach

Best Revitalized Garden, Elementary Division: Equestrian Trails
Elementary, Wellington

Most Creative Learning Environment, Elementary Division: Elbridge Gale Elementary, Wellington

Best Use of Produce, Middle/High Division: Boynton beach High, Boynton Beach

- An additional eight schools, now making a total of fourteen schools are participating in the United States Department of Agriculture's **Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Program** which provides each student daily with a fresh fruit or vegetable snack at no cost. This program has been very well received within the school environment as it encourages students to try a variety of fruits and vegetables.
- The School District of Palm Beach County hosts the Online **Tobacco Prevention and Intervention** Course for the state of Florida. In the last 4 years over 3,500 teachers signed up for this program, 2,000 teachers completed the program, and 45,000 students received tobacco prevention instruction through those teachers. Every year, teachers demonstrated a positive influence in helping students make healthy decisions concerning tobacco.
- The Department of Safe Schools supports **Safe School Ambassadors** (SSAs), where student opinion leaders on campus are trained to recognize and intervene skillfully in incidents of deliberate exclusion, putdowns, intimidation, unwanted physical contact, and bigotry in schools. The SDPBC has the highest concentration of SSA programs in the country, with 26 active programs in SY16. Since Dec. 2000, SSAs report intervening an average of 3 times per week, amounting to approximately 3000 interventions per school, per year.
- The Department of Safe Schools also **supports programs** that: prevent violence, the use of drugs and alcohol, foster a safe school environment, and address problems faced by homeless youth attending school. In addition we coordinate the district wide implementation of School-wide Positive Behavior Support.
- Other recent awards received:
 - 2015 Large Employer winner of the Healthier Miami-Dade Consortium's Florida Worksite Wellness Award
 - 2015 Florida Tobacco Cessation Alliance Gold Level Worksite Wellness Award
 - 2015 Cancer Gold Standard CEO Award
 - 2015 3rd Runner-up for South Florida Business Journal's Large Employer Healthiest Workplace Award
 - 2015 American Heart Association Platinum Fit Friendly Company
 - 2014 Gold level Healthy School Award for the Coordinated School Health program

[Visit The School District of Palm Beach County's Website](#)

