



Florida Sterling Council



Lee County Public Schools Benchmark with Great Companies

Background Info

Lee County Public Schools is the single-largest employer in Lee County. It is the ninth-largest district in Florida and one of the 50 largest districts in the United States. The District has approximately 11,000 employees (approximately 5,000 of which are teachers,) more than 80,000 K-12th-grade students, approximately 18,000 adult education students and 107 schools (including 14 charter schools.) Lee County is a large urban/suburban school district that has been growing each year. Some reports show that of the total number of new students to Florida, approximately 10% will enroll in Lee County's schools. It is one of the nation's fastest growing school districts, with current facilities totaling nearly 10 million square feet.

School construction projects, including new facilities and remodel/renovations, have been steadily rising over the past few years. In the 2004/05 school year, the District added six new schools; in 2005/06, seven new schools joined the District; 2006/07 two more schools opened their doors for the first time; and for 2007/08 there are four new schools joining the system. Looking back over the past few school years, the District has remodeled approximately 3,000 student stations and added more than 25,000 new student stations.

In addition to annually educating more than 80,000 K-12 students, the school system has multiple support roles, including food services, transportation, technology and facilities management. The size and scope of the organization requires support sites throughout the county. Facts of note include:

- There are nearly 700 school buses on daily routes, transporting approximately 45,000 students to and from school every day. Every year, District buses travel more than 14 million miles;
- Each day approximately 12,000 breakfasts and 40,000 lunches are served. Each year, that equates to 2.16 million breakfasts and 7.2 million lunches;
- The total budget for the 2007/08 fiscal year is approximately \$1.66 billion;
- Of the 80 District schools that received a 2006/07 grade from the state (A+ Plan,) 58 received an "A" or "B" (72%), which is higher than the state average (69%).

Five elected School Board members govern the District, and are elected countywide. The Board appoints the Superintendent, who oversees the District's employees and daily operation of the system. The District receives its funding through a complex student per-capita funding formula established by the Florida Legislature. Board members then oversee how those funds are spent within general state guidelines. While the District works with local and state authorities, it enjoys "home rule" – it does not require approval for its operating decisions from any other local authority. Public meetings are held to discuss ongoing business. Community input is welcome and vital to the decision-making process; however, the decisions of the School Board are final.

We are all committed to keeping the Main Thing, the Main Thing – and the Main Thing is Student Achievement. Having everyone focused on the same goal, using the Sterling Principles, and moving in that direction is vital for all we do for children.

Dr. James Browder, Superintendent of Schools

Florida is known as the Sunshine State for more than one reason. In addition to favorable weather year-round, Florida Statutes also affords the public access to the majority of the documents and discussions needed to conduct the school system's business. As with any open door organization, this setting offers many opportunities for public comment and involvement.

While Southwest Florida has traditionally been a place where individuals from northern states retired to enjoy their "golden years" in the sun, more and more younger families are calling the area home. Just as the District continues to evolve at a rapid pace, the composition of the county is changing as well.

Sterling: The Competitive Advantage

Key Competencies

- Public Sector Perspective
- K-12 Education expertise and experience
- Community and parent involvement
- Strategic Alignment of District, Department, School, Classroom, and Student Goals

Benchmarking

- Quality approach to student learning through an aligned Academic Plan
- Career Academy Comprehensive High Schools
- Nationally recognized Reading Programs



Contact Information

School District of Lee County
2855 Colonial Boulevard
Fort Myers, FL 33966
www.leeschools.net

James W. Browder, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
(239) 337-8301
JimWB@leeschools.net

Dr. Constance Jones
Chief Academic Officer
(239) 337-8307
ConstanceAJ@leeschools.net

Vicki Stockman
Director of Staff Development
(239) 337-8369
VickiMS@leeschools.net