



## 2012-2013 Nominee Presentation Form

### PART I - ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATION

#### **District's Certifications**

The signature of the district superintendent on the next page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the district's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct.

1. The district has been evaluated and selected from among districts within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The nominated public school district is not refusing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district wide compliance review.
3. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the public school district concluding that the nominated public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
4. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
5. There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a U.S. Department of Education monitoring report that apply to the public school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or public school district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.
6. The school district meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

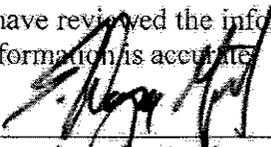


Web site/URL: www.palmbeachschools.org E-mail: ewayne.gent@palmbeachschools.org

Name of Superintendent: Mr. E. Wayne Gent  
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., Other)

District Name: The School District of Palm Beach County Telephone: (561) 649-6833

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

  
Date 1-17-2013  
(Superintendent's Signature)

## **PART II - DOCUMENTATION OF STATE EVALUATION OF NOMINEE**

### **Instructions to Nominating Authority**

The Nominating Authority must document schools' high achievement in each of the three ED-GRS Pillars and nine Elements. Please attach documentation in each Pillar. This may be the Authority's application based on the Framework and sample application or a committee's written evaluation of a school in each Pillar and Element.

### **Nominating Authority's Certifications**

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the district's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct.

1. The district is one of those overseen by the Nominating Authority which is highest achieving in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
2. The district meets all applicable federal civil rights and federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.



Name of Nominating Agency: Florida Department of Education

Name of Nominating Authority: Dr. Tony Bennett, Commissioner of Education

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the district meets the provisions above.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Tony Bennett", written over a horizontal line.

Date 1/31/13

(Nominating Authority's Signature)

The nomination package, including the signed certifications and documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars should be converted to a PDF file and emailed to [green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov](mailto:green.ribbon.schools@ed.gov) according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509  
Expiration Date: February 28, 2015

#### Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email [ICDocketMgr@ed.gov](mailto:ICDocketMgr@ed.gov) and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.

**Pillar I: Reduce Environmental Impact and Costs**  
**Nominee: The School District of Palm Beach County, Florida**



The Palm Beach County School District is committed to reducing environmental impact and costs through numerous programs including the District's 2009 directive to meet LEED Silver-certification level (minimum) for all new construction and modernization projects.

On May 6, 2009 the School Board formally adopted the Energy and Water Use Conservation Policy # 7.196 (<http://www.schoolboardpolicies.com/p/7.196>) that mandated LEED compliant construction and other cost savings measures such as the use of U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) – Energy Star rated mechanical, electrical equipment and appliances. Portions of EPA's EnergySmart Schools program were implemented and thermostat and HVAC temperature settings were standardized using the District's web-based Energy Management System (EMS). Resource Conservation Coordinator positions were created to conduct un-announced nighttime visits of District facilities for assessment of energy usage and compliance with energy-savings initiatives.

Since the LEED construction initiative was adopted by the District, seven LEED-certified schools and one Florida Green Building Coalition-certified school have been constructed. In 2008, Pine Jog Elementary (the 1<sup>st</sup> K-12 LEED Gold-certified school in the state of Florida) was constructed on the site of Pine Jog Environmental Education Center, on a 150 acre nature preserve and has since been recognized as a showcase environmental construction project. Galaxy Elementary, currently under construction, is projected to become Florida's 1<sup>st</sup> Platinum-certified public school.

Recent analysis by the utility manager has documented a 31% reduction in energy use when comparing the District's LEED vs. non-LEED schools. District construction-cost analysis comparing a LEED vs. a non-LEED school that were both constructed during the same time period indicate essentially equivalent total costs (LEED = \$179 cost/SF vs. non-LEED = \$180 cost/SF).

The District is also currently piloting LEED - Existing Building Operations and Maintenance (EBOM) certification at Heritage Elementary. As an existing school, the EBOM process will identify energy-savings opportunities and has already resulted in immediate improvements by the addition of water-savings devices. The school's mechanical system is currently being evaluated and optimized by maintenance staff and a certified test and balancing contractor. Once proven successful, the District plans to expand LEED-EBOM to other existing schools.

Other cost-savings measures employed by the District include an Energy Incentive Program which returns a percentage of yearly energy savings back to schools that earn the distinction of

energy-conservation “Top Performers” or meet energy-reduction targets. For the past two years, schools have received thousands of dollars in cash energy awards which they can use to reward conservation program participants and further enhance the sustainability of their campuses.

The Palm Beach County School District was one of the first in the nation to employ a full-time Sustainability Coordinator charged with developing and overseeing conservation initiatives such as the District’s robust recycling program which minimizes waste generation and reduces disposal costs and fees. The Waste Reduction, Materials Reuse, and Recycling Policy # 7.197 (<http://www.schoolboardpolicies.com/p/7.197>) set a target rate of 25% and the District’s efforts currently stand at 22%. Recycling program savings have reached \$600,000 per year in direct and in-direct savings by using fewer and smaller trash dumpsters among other measures. Additional improvements include:

- The District has completed a number of re-lamping projects that have replaced older, less-efficient bulbs with new, energy-efficient models that not only reduce District energy costs, but improve classroom lighting.
- A new “green-cleaning” program was established that utilizes fewer cleaning chemicals thereby reducing procurement and equipment costs with the added environmental benefits of less-toxic cleaners.
- The District has implemented an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program to reduce the use of harmful chemicals which are put into our classrooms and the environment.
- Nighttime custodial practices were also altered by instituting “team cleaning” concept. Under this approach, only 20% of the campus buildings are cleaned at a time while the remaining sections remain de-energized. All EMS-controlled exterior school lighting is shut down at night.
- The District’s Information Technology Division instituted an after-hours forced shut-down of computer equipment including monitors in many cases.
- The School Board - Energy and Water Use Conservation Policy # 7.196 (<http://www.schoolboardpolicies.com/p/7.196>) also requires the purchase of the most fuel efficient vehicles available to save fuel costs and reduce the District’s carbon footprint. The Transportation department has a robust recycling program that collects used-oil, used-oil filters, antifreeze and scrap metal from obsolete or damaged vehicle parts.
- The District has adopted the School Bus and Heavy-Duty Diesel Vehicle Idling Reduction Policy # 2.24 (<http://www.schoolboardpolicies.com/p/2.24>) to reduce vehicle idling in order to minimize the production of carbon monoxide and protect our clean air.
- The District has adopted the use of waterless urinals as both a water and cost savings measures.
- The District modified lease agreements to reduce HVAC costs by restricting after-school and summer break activities to smaller school-center buildings with appropriately-sized HVAC equipment.
- The District has over twenty (20) LEED-accredited professionals currently on staff.
- Establishment of a District-wide “Green Team” and “Green” website to create and monitor environmental and conservation initiatives. A green newsletter, *Recycling Matters* is also regularly published.
- Control and monitor real-time temperature, relative humidity and exterior lighting using the District’s web-based Energy Management System (EMS).
- Fluorescent light-bulb and other mercury-containing electrical device recycling program.
- District in-house commissioning team that audits mechanical, electrical and technology systems for new and existing facilities.
- Partnership with Florida Atlantic University for creation and participation in the Green Schools Recognition Program.

Since 2008, **the District has reduced overall electrical expenses by \$11 million** even as new buildings and square-footage has increased. The School District of Palm Beach is continually seeking new products or developing innovative programs to both reduce both energy costs and the environmental impact of operations. District leadership has shown a deep commitment to being environmental stewards and conducting District operations to the benefit of all stakeholders including students, parents, staff and the community-at-large.

**Pillar II:** Improve the Health and Wellness of Student and Staff  
**Nominee:** The School District of Palm Beach County, Florida



The Florida Coordinated School Health Partnership (CSHP) and Florida Action for Healthy Kids, recognized The School District of Palm Beach County for achieving the status of a Florida Healthy School District at the **GOLD** level. This is a tremendous tribute to the administration and staff. Until this 2012, no Florida district was able to meet the stringent criteria to achieve this honor. The School District of Palm Beach County is one of only three districts that were awarded at this high level in 2012.

The criterion for recognition as a Florida Healthy School District is the Florida Healthy School District (FHSD) Self-Assessment Tool (<http://www.healthydistrict.com/self-assessment-tool>). This tool was developed by experts from state agencies, school districts, and community partner organizations working together through the Florida Coordinated School Health Partnership. The self-assessment is based on the eight component areas of the Coordinated School Health model and focuses on district infrastructure, policy, programs, and practices identified from national and state guidelines, best practices, and Florida statutes.

Based on the information provided in The School District of Palm Beach County's submission, it is apparent that they are performing as a leader in the state as a result of the well-established district infrastructure and component area strengths. Recognition achievement levels are based on the overall assessment score and include three categories: Gold at 85%-100%; Silver 67%-85%; and Bronze 42%-66%. The District of Palm Beach County had an overall score of 88.6%. A nearly perfect score in the area of district infrastructure and support validates why this district is so successful. In the component areas, Palm Beach had strong scores in each component area: Health Education (90%); Physical Education (80%); Health Services (90%); Nutrition Services and Education (70%); Health Promotion for Staff (90%); Counseling Psychological and Social Services (80%); Healthy School Environment (100%); and Family and Community Involvement (90%).

The School District of Palm Beach County is an active member of the Florida Departments of Health and Education's Healthy District Collaborative (HDC). The HDC is a group of districts that have made a high level commitment to meeting the health needs of students and staff in order to remove barriers to learning and maximize district resources. The Department of Education, Office of Healthy Schools and Department of Health, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion facilitate quarterly calls and webinars. The District of Palm Beach County serves as a model and mentors other school districts by sharing their successes, strategies, and resources to support district efforts to achieve the highest standards and sustain effective policies and practices.

## **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 Annual Report is created to document the wellness initiatives occurring in the district and community utilizing a web-based platform allowing for global access. Use the following link to access the 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the District's "2012 Wellness Promotion Policy Annual Report":

- [www.2012wellnessannualreport.com](http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com)

## **Palm Beach County Highlights:**

- The School District of Palm Beach County is the fifth largest district in the state of Florida. The District's School Food Service (SFS) Department has been recognized as a leader in the State of Florida and on a national level for exceeding the nutrition standards required by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) for Child Nutrition Programs. Every day the SFS Department offers students the opportunity to select nutritious meals for breakfast and lunch through offering a variety of fresh fruits and vegetables, whole wheat and whole grain bread products, lean proteins, and low-fat and fat free dairy options. In addition, the department has completed the certification process, to include an on-site review, which ensures compliance with the Nutrition Standards component of the Healthy Hunger-Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA). Use the following links to access this information:
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/nutritionstandards/school-breakfast-national-school-lunch.html>
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/nutritionstandards/after-school-snacks.html>
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/nutritionstandards/after-school-snacks.html>
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/nutritionstandards/nutrition-standards.html>
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/nutritionstandards/district-menus.html>
- The School Food Service Department has been proactive in implementing various avenues for students to have access to nutritious meals to include: the 100% Accessible Breakfast Program (all levels) and the High School Cafeteria Pilot Program. Use the following links to access this information:
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/nutritioneducation/accessible-breakfast-program.html>
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/nutritionstandards/hs-cafeteria-pilot-program.html>
- The School Food Service Department reached out and partnered with local farmers to create a Farm to School bid. Several other districts have utilized this bid to bring in farm fresh produce for their students. They continuously explore opportunities to provide students with local farm fresh produce. The department has successfully implemented a model Farm to School Program which utilizes locally grown produce weekly. Use the following link to access this information:
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/nutritioneducation/farm-to-school.html>
- The School Food Service Department's capital equipment budget saved \$397,000 in new equipment purchases for fiscal year 2012 by utilizing equipment salvaged from school modernizations. This allowed the department to: create additional serving lines, create nutritious dishes lines, rearrange serving lines, and add point-of-sale stations to improve service capabilities and allow more students the ability to participate in the National School Lunch Program. This strategy has been practiced over many years resulting in over \$1,000,000 in savings since fiscal year 2008. In fiscal year 2008 the School Food Service Department was awarded the USDA Best Practice Award for increasing participation. Winning this award was

due, in part, to the reuse of equipment resulting in the least amount of capital outlay for the project.

- Six schools are presently 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. Use the following link to access this information:
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/unitedresources/fresh-fruit-and-vegetable-program.html>
- The School District of Palm Beach County was awarded the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Healthy Kids Healthy Communities grant geared toward making policy and environmental changes to improve access to healthy foods and opportunities for physical activity. Use the following link to access this information:
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/unitedresources/robert-wood-johnson-foundation.html>
- Wellness Champions within schools/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. Use the following links to access this information:
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/otherschoolbasedactivities/overview.html>
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/otherschoolbasedactivities/schools-departments.html>
- 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. The District's Wellness Coordinator of the Risk & Benefits Management Department, Kimberly Sandmaier, was selected along with 17 other individuals from across the country as a 2012 Healthy Schools Program Champion. National Champion Network members are individuals that motivate students and staff toward healthier school environments nationwide. They are innovators in their field and make up a team of experts that improve access to healthy foods, beverages and physical activity for the schools in their communities. Use the following link to access this information:
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/otherschoolbasedactivities/alliance-for-a-healthier-generation.html>
- The School District of Palm Beach County hosts the Online Tobacco Prevention and Intervention Course for the state of Florida. To date there are approximately 900 teachers enrolled and 238 are from Palm Beach County. This program reached over 15,000 students across the state in 2012. Fifty-four of the sixty-seven district participated. This was also the first year that permitted private school teachers to participate. Use the following link to access this information:
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/studentinterventionservices/tobacco-prevention-initiative.html>
- The School District of Palm Beach County Prevention Center supports FACE IT (Families Acting Collaboratively to Educate and Involve Teens) in which a parent or guardian is required to attend eight sessions as an alternative to suspension program. The Prevention Center also supports the National Campaign to Prevent Teen Pregnancy, Too Good for Drugs in K-5 grades, Character Education, and Bullying Prevention (to name just a few programs) in all 185 district schools. Use the following links to access this information:
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/studentinterventionservices/face-it.html>

- <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/studentinterventionservices/teenage-parent-program.html>
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/studentinterventionservices/drug-prevention.html>
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/studentinterventionservices/character-education.html>
  - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/otherschoolbasedactivities/bullying.html>
- The Department of Choice and Career Options has 30 Medical Sciences Academies servicing students in grades 6-12. Students follow an intensive skilled-based curriculum in which healthy life styles and prevention of disease is a major component of the academy. 68 licensed/certified healthcare providers and educators serve 2,644 medical academy students in Palm Beach County. Health Science Education is a major component improving the health and wellness of the students, staff and the community. Use the following links to access this information:
    - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/otherschoolbasedactivities/career-academies.html>
    - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/otherschoolbasedactivities/curriculums.html>
  - The Charles E. Schmidt College of Medicine Healthcare Careers Outreach Program at Florida Atlantic University is working in partnership with The School District of Palm Beach County in 2 middle and 2 high schools promoting high standards of practice, disease prevention and good quality of life to improve health and educate the community on health issues.
  - Career Education, through Culinary Arts, teaches students to combine food chemistry with nutrition and food preparation, further developing students' awareness and commitment to healthier eating habits and a personal wellness plan.
  - Through Early Childhood Education Career Education Programs, students focus on nutritional requirements as it relates to young children, integrating knowledge into the onsite preschools. This allows them to teach preschoolers about proper nutritional habits and exercise, thereby starting the process of developing personal wellness plans.
  - The School District of Palm Beach County has had five teachers win the statewide teacher of the year award for best physical and health education since 2008.
  - The School District of Palm Beach County was awarded the Federal Carol M. White, Physical Education Program (PEP) grant in 2011 in the amount of 2.1 million dollars. Over the three year grant period all elementary schools in The School District of Palm Beach County will integrate the Sports, Play and Active Recreation for Kids (SPARK) researched based curriculum.
  - Eric Stern, school district administrator, was selected by the Center for Disease Controls (CDC) as one of twelve nationwide leaders to serve on the first ever national coalition to support urban physical education.
  - The Miami Children's Hospital made a five year commitment to promote health literacy for all students and teachers in Palm Beach County by making the HealthTeacher curriculum available for all public schools. Use the following link to access this information:
    - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/physicalactivity/healthteacher.html>
  - 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. Use the following link to access this information:
    - <http://www.2012wellnessannualreport.com/studentinterventionservices/health-services.html>

- In 2008 and 2009, The School District of Palm Beach County adopted five Policies: Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Policy # 7.195 (<http://www.schoolboardpolicies.com/p/7.195>), Energy and Water Use Conservation Policy # 7.196 (<http://www.schoolboardpolicies.com/p/7.196>), and the Waste Reduction, Materials Reuse and Recycling Policy # 7.197 (<http://www.schoolboardpolicies.com/p/7.197>). In 2002, the District adopted the Animals on District Property Policy # 7.24 – (<http://www.schoolboardpolicies.com/p/7.24>) and in 2012 the Tobacco Free Environment Policy # 7.19 (<http://www.schoolboardpolicies.com/p/7.19>) was adopted. All five policies are key components of the District’s efforts to provide an enriching and healthful environment for working and learning.
  - IAQ Policy # 7.195 (<http://www.schoolboardpolicies.com/p/7.195>) sets standards for acceptable temperature and relative humidity levels in District facilities and includes provisions for routine preventative maintenance of HVAC equipment to ensure operating conditions meet industry guidelines for cleanliness and efficiency. The District’s in-house commissioning team also inspects mechanical and electrical systems periodically to ensure they comply with original design criteria. The District has specified the use of high-efficiency pleated filters (minimum MERV 13) for all centralized air-handling equipment to ensure maximum particulate capture. District Design Criteria (DDC) includes requirements for pre-treatment of HVAC outside-air to remove excess water vapor entering air-handling equipment.
  - The use of carpet flooring was severely restricted by the IAQ Policy and low-VOC emitting building products including furnishings encouraged. The District created a Building Envelope Maintenance Program (BEMP) to inspect building envelopes and make repairs or improvements including roof replacements, shell weatherization and window upgrades. Since 2006, BEMP has performed water-proofing projects at 31 schools and completed 47 roof replacement projects.
  - A formal chemical approval process was enacted to protect District students and staff and to make certain only the most environmentally-friendly products were used during the operation and custodial care of school facilities. The use of household chemicals, air-fresheners, deodorizers and scented candles were banned from District facilities. The District’s Radon Gas program meets all Federal & state of Florida requirements for surveying, sampling, and regulatory reporting and was also included in the IAQ Policy. After a short pilot program, a District-wide green cleaning program was implemented that significantly reduced the quantity of custodial cleaners at District facilities and provided less-toxic alternatives. Additional reductions in floor-care products have been achieved through the introduction of no-wax flooring materials.
  - An Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program was also implemented under IAQ Policy to employ less-toxic treatment options and significantly increase non-pesticide/herbicides alternatives for controlling pests and landscape. Monthly IPM site inspections were instituted and pest issues treated in a more preventive, environmentally-sensitive manner.
  - Air-cleaning equipment that emitted ozone in excess of regulatory standards were no longer permitted inside District buildings and high-odor activities such as painting, roofing work, floor tile installation were restricted to after school-hours only.
  - An IAQ assessment team and remediation program was established to address indoor-air quality complaints and perform remediation projects. The program was modeled on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) - Tools for Schools (TfS) program and the American Industrial Hygienist Association (AIHA) industry guidelines and recommendations. The program performs over 400 assessments and 100 IAQ-related projects each year under the supervision of highly trained, in-house environmental

professionals. The District also hired a certified industrial hygienist (CIH) to assist in the IAQ program among others.

- IAQ Policy # 7.195 (<http://www.schoolboardpolicies.com/p/7.195>) also integrated the Asthma-Friendly Schools program; a successful partnership between The School District of Palm Beach County and local chapter of the American Lung Association. The program utilizes third-party inspectors to document facility conditions at selected elementary and middle school-centers, identify potential asthma triggers and provide a written report with findings and recommendations. The District's facilities department and school staff are charged with completing all corrective actions. To date, 122 of the District's 187 schools have received certification and recognition through the program.
- The District's Energy and Water Use Conservation Policy # 7.196 (<http://www.schoolboardpolicies.com/p/7.196>) mandated changes to the District's Master Specifications (DMS) and District Design Criteria (DDC) to ensure compliance with LEED's latest ventilation requirements and the Florida Energy Code's HVAC design and ventilation rates. The policy also addressed comfort parameters such as temperature and relative humidity. Under the policy, immediate notification for the discovery of plumbing leaks and related water intrusion events was instituted.
- The District's Waste Reduction, Materials Reuse and Recycling Policy # 7.197 (<http://www.schoolboardpolicies.com/p/7.197>) includes provisions to minimize "attic stock" in an effort to eliminate the long-term storage of paints and other construction-related items often left behind by contractors after District construction projects are completed. Transportation consumables including lubricants, oils and anti-freeze are targeted for recycling as well as District ink and toners under the policy.
- The District's Animals on District Property Policy # 7.24 (<http://www.schoolboardpolicies.com/p/7.24>) set forth the requirements for animal housing plus guidelines for student and staff interactions. The regulation of animals inside District facilities has improved indoor-air quality and reduced asthma triggers. Animals can also act as vectors for disease; therefore, limiting and carefully managing animal interactions provided enhanced health-related benefits to building occupants.
- The District's Tobacco Free Environment Policy # 7.19 (<http://www.schoolboardpolicies.com/p/7.19>) was developed in response to "health, safety, and environmental hazards" associated with tobacco and banned its use on all of the properties of The School District of Palm Beach County.
- The District's indoor-air quality program has been recognized twice by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. In 2003 it was the recipient of EPA's IAQ TfS Excellence Award and in 2007 it was awarded the Indoor-Air Quality Tools for Schools – Model of Sustained Excellence Award for its exemplary efforts to improve indoor-air quality for students, teachers and staff. According to Elizabeth Cotsworth, Director of EPA's Office of Radiation and Indoor-air Quality, ***"The School District of Palm Beach County is demonstrating national leadership through its commitment to promote good indoor-air quality in their community's schools"***.

**Pillar III:** Provide effective environmental and sustainability education, incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green career pathways.

**Nominee:** The School District of Palm Beach County, Florida



The School District of Palm Beach County’s vision of *“a multicultural community where education and lifelong learning are valued and supported...”* is furthered by its commitment to design and build world-class facilities that incorporate the latest sustainability and conservation concepts. The District has developed and implemented curriculum and choice programs specifically designed to integrate environmental and sustainability topics into the K-12 academic experience. Recognizing that “it takes a village to raise a child”, the District is also committed to community outreach by serving as an active member in various local and national conferences that promote environmental awareness and recognize and reward environmental achievement.

The District provides numerous tools and opportunities for teachers and students to be engaged in environmental education. Grade level appropriate lesson plans which tie environmental education to Florida’s Sunshine State Standards are available to all teachers on the District’s website; Learning Village. There teachers can find lesson plans that relate the environment to math, science, language arts and other subjects.

Environmentally themed and STEM choice and career education programs are also offered to students in elementary, middle and high schools. The following choice programs are available to students through the District’s choice application process:

- **Energy, Environment, and Engineering** – Galaxy Elementary
- **STEM** – Pine Jog Elementary, Poinciana Elementary, Roosevelt Elementary, Boca Raton Community High, Royal Palm Beach community High, Suncoast High, Village Academy
- **Environmental Science & Research** – Roosevelt Community Middle, Forest Hill Community High, Jupiter Community High
- **Engineering & Technology** – Eagles Landing Middle, Congress Middle, Lake Worth Middle, Roosevelt Community Middle, Forest Hill Community High, Glades Central Community High, Jupiter Community High, Olympic Heights Community High, Palm Beach Central High
- **Biotechnology** – Bear Lakes Middle, Palm Beach Lakes Community High, Seminole Ridge Community High, Spanish River Community High

### **Highlights of Jupiter Community High School:**

- At the high school level, Jupiter Community High School's competitive 4-year magnet program JERFSA (Jupiter Environmental Research and Field Studies Academy) provides a rigorous environmental studies program as an integral part of its curriculum. Students are immersed in studies ranging from ecological systems and natural processes to environmental awareness that spans high school and collegiate instructional levels.
- Following its 1993 inception, JERFSA graduated 35 students. The Academy has expended greatly and now currently offers 75 field activities in collaboration with local wildlife and environmental conservation agencies and other community partners. High school students routinely visit elementary schools for presentation of environmental issues and literature to students and staff. The academy currently accepts up to 60 incoming freshmen, with an estimated 200 in the program-at-large. JERFSA students host and participate in a yearly 5-K Green Run/Walk to showcase a local wetland preserve (Palm Beach County - Riverbend Park – Jupiter, Florida) and increase community awareness of natural resource conservation.
- In 2012 JERFSA won the Florida Envirothon competition for an unprecedented sixth time defeating all 26 of Florida's district champion teams. This competition requires teams to demonstrate their mastery of environmental areas of study including Aquatic Ecology, Forestry, Soils/Land Use, Wildlife, and Current Environmental Issues.

### **Highlights of Galaxy Elementary School:**

- The District's "*school as a teaching tool*" philosophy continues to be reflected in new construction projects as exemplified by Galaxy Elementary; an energy, environment, and engineering choice school. Galaxy, currently under construction, is projected to become the 1<sup>st</sup> LEED Platinum-certified public school in Florida. Built to accommodate 960 K-5 students, the school will merge state-of-the-art building technology with a science-based curriculum.
- As a direct result of community involvement and sponsorship by various local partners including, but not limited to, the Bachelor Foundation and Quantum Foundation, which donated \$750,000, Galaxy Elementary will feature a "wonderment center" featuring a two story museum-like entry, four skills-laboratory classrooms intended to showcase student STEM projects and green initiatives, with sensory based science and nature exhibits at various multi-age work stations.
- The local utility company, Florida Power and Light, has donated solar photovoltaic panels to the school. The physical education pavilion will feature four types of panels positioned so that the elementary students can see them and learn how they function, generate energy, and conduct evaluations of each panel type. The District's Energy Management System will control interior comfort parameters and hallway-mounted computer screens that will allow students to monitor the school's mechanical systems and energy performance data in real-time.
- Galaxy's inter-local agreement with the City of Boynton Beach includes the establishment of a preservation area featuring Florida native flora and fauna with walking paths for outdoor student learning and community enjoyment.
- Additional environmental conservation measures at Galaxy Elementary will include a green roof, a thermal storage ice plant for the HVAC system and enhanced water conservation efforts that include reclaimed water use for irrigation, thereby minimizing the school's water consumption and its reliance on well water from the local aquifer. A wind turbine will be erected to demonstrate the use of wind power in energy production. Rainwater harvesting to

onsite cisterns will aide in greenscape irrigation. High efficiency lighting fixtures, lighting controls, and the optimal use of natural daylight will reduce the school's lighting loads.

### **Highlights of Pine Jog Elementary School:**

- Pine Jog Elementary School, the 1<sup>st</sup> LEED Gold-certified K-12 school in Florida, has garnered national recognition for its innovate environmental and sustainability practices and unique academic approach to learning. Pine Jog also has a unique after-care program facilitated by Florida Atlantic University (FAU) students that attend the adjoining FAU/Pine Jog Environmental Center. The staff and student interactions are often science-based and expand instructional practices beyond the building walls and into the surrounding 150 acre nature preserve. The school's hydroponic gardening system has become a District model and provides valuable lessons and experience with crop cultivation and agricultural water-use.
- The students at Pine Jog Elementary and the six other LEED or FBGC-certified District schools learn environmental stewardship concepts including the importance of water conservation from hands-on interaction with unique design features including rainwater cisterns, pervious parking systems, bio-swales, low-flow plumbing fixtures and waterless urinals.

Educating District staff and others is also accomplished through the District's extensive green schools website and through the publication of a newsletter, *Recycling Matters*. Through these easily accessible resources, teachers, students and parents can learn more about energy, water conservation, and recycling as well as view live energy and water use data for four of our LEED certified schools.

The District's commitment to environmental stewardship and community outreach and engagement also includes participation in programs and conferences developed with local partners such as its Annual Learn Green Conference and EXPO, the Green Schools Recognition Program, and the Green Schools National Conference.

- The Annual Learn Green Conference and EXPO is a collaborative effort with the FAU/Pine Jog Environmental Center which aims to educate the community-at-large (students, teachers, administrators, facilities professionals, parents, and community members), share knowledge and resources, and foster green initiatives and solutions at school, home, work, and community. The conference attracts attendees from all across the region and includes prestigious keynote speakers. This conference started modestly in 2009 with 300 participants and 30 exhibitors and has grown steadily each year topping 933 participants representing 16 Florida counties and 3 states, while showcasing 90 exhibitors. The 72 sessions of the 4th Annual Learn Green Conference and EXPO conference (October 19, 2012) included such topics as: Creatively Integrating School Gardens and Outdoor Learning Across Curricula, Greening Existing Schools Project Management Guide, 7 Steps to Special Event Recycling, Healthy Eating Through the Ages, Joint Use Interlocal Agreements – Putting the Idea into Practice, UF/IFAS Cooperative Extension – Florida Friendly Resources that Can Support Your School's Green Learning Initiatives, and Sustainable Fleet – The Clean Cities Program and Strategies for Petroleum Reduction.
- The Green Schools Recognition Program (GSRP) is a regional initiative recognizing both public and private schools for sustainability and conservation measures. GSRP encourages integration of sustainable measures into the school curriculum, operations, and community involvement with required administrative support. The program provides cash rewards in six categories, including School Grounds Enhancement (for the use of the school property as an outdoor classroom and for natural habitat restoration), School

Sustainability (focusing on energy/natural resource conservation), Curriculum Integration (including the study of current global environmental issues), Community Involvement (volunteers, interlocal agreements and outreach events), Administrative Support (to build a green school culture), and Innovation (the opportunity for recognition of innovative sustainability measures). Based on their accumulated points, schools are recognized as a Green School of Excellence, Green School of Quality, or Green School of Promise. The Green Schools Recognition Program started in 2009 with twenty-one schools receiving recognition. In 2012, sixty schools were recognized, including 16 - Green Schools of Excellence, 25 - Green Schools of Quality, and 19 - Green Schools of Promise. GSRP is a significant contribution to the local community and has served as a model for similar programs developed in Florida and other states.

- The Minnesota based Green Schools National Network (GSNN), which aims to advance the national green schools movement, is hosting its Green Schools National Conference in Palm Beach County in part because of the District's forward focused environmental conservation initiatives and community engagement. The 3rd Annual Green Schools National Conference (February 22-24, 2013) will be attended by hundreds of participants from across the nation and will include excursions to the Florida Everglades, local beaches, natural areas, and subtropical habitats of South Florida. An excursion to Green Cay Farm is also scheduled to learn about sustainable agriculture, as well as tour of LEED Gold-certified Pine Jog Elementary School and its innovate design features. The conference workshops will feature lectures, exercises, and brainstorm sessions geared towards "whole-school, whole district" sustainability. The conference segments revolve around best management practices to "Green Your District", "Green Your School" and "Green Your Students". Six breakout sessions held over the two-day conference include Let's Talk Trash – Inspiring Gen Z to Grow their Green Roots, Increasing Student Achievement through an Improved Building Environment, Overcoming the Barriers to Improving School Food, Collaborating for Schoolyard Habitat Restoration, Education in the Southeast & Beyond, and Successful Education for Sustainability Strategies from Leading School Districts.

The School District of Palm Beach County is proactive in sharing lessons learned about green schools and environmental education with other school district around the country. Mr. Joseph Sanches is the District's Chief of Support Operations and reports directly to the Superintendent of Schools, Mr. E. Wayne Gent. Mr. Sanches is a member of the Board of Directors for the U.S. Green Building Council and has presented educational seminars at numerous conferences including, but not limited to, the K-12 Facilities Summit, The School Equipment Show, Florida Green, Energy and Climate Conference & Expo, Florida Educational Facilities Planners Association and Association of School Business Officials International.