

## Preliminary Report, Highlights: Pompano Beach High School, Broward County

**LEADERSHIP:** The principal at Pompano Beach High School is a strong believer in empowering stakeholders to be involved in the decision-making process. A very active School Advisory Council meets on a regular basis to discuss school direction and progress as well as budget. An administrative leadership team of assistant principals, a guidance director, a magnet coordinator, and department heads provides an organizing structure. The principal stresses the importance of also making teachers feel comfortable and involved in decision-making. Departmental meetings are held regularly and decisions regarding instructional materials, curriculum, textbooks, and teaching strategies are made. In addition, a Faculty Council meets on a monthly basis to identify ways to improve teaching and learning with members submitting formal recommendations to the administration. The faculty values the contributions each individual makes to the school as evidenced by their decision to share the A+ money equally with all staff members. Each month a student leadership group meets with the administrative team to discuss and solve student concerns collaboratively.

**Results:** School Grade: 2002 A; 2003 A.

**Practices that Promote High Performance:**

- Providing an organizing structure for leadership and decision making to include all stakeholders
- Faculty Council that meets on a monthly basis to identify ways to improve teaching and learning with recommendations to the administrative team
- Regular meetings between administrative team and student leadership group to collaboratively discuss and solve issues of concern

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:** Professional development linked to academic goals is a priority at Pompano Beach High School. Teachers are encouraged to attend conferences, belong to professional organizations and work on advanced degrees. The principal sees this investment in professional development as a means of improving teaching and learning on the campus. The entire staff has been given Palm Pilots and laptop computers and provided the professional development activities necessary to use the technology to support instructional activities. In addition, departmental meetings are scheduled monthly and faculty meetings are held twice a month. “Collegial Conversation Mondays” provide faculty the opportunity to converse professionally across content areas. Ten teacher led “instructional focus” workshops are held after school throughout the year. Teachers are encouraged to attend and share information gained from workshops and conferences at department and staff meetings.

**Results:** Graduate degrees held by 44% of staff; FCAT (NRT) scores exceed district and state levels.

**Practices that Promote High Performance:**

- Extensive investment in professional development on and off campus
- “Collegial Conversation Mondays” to encourage professional exchange across content areas
- School based workshops focusing on diversity, technology, and the instructional focus component of the curriculum

**TIME MANAGEMENT:** Pompano Beach High School operates on a unique four-day, eight-hour day student week with each day divided into four 110-minute blocks. Remediation takes place on Fridays and Wednesday afternoons when activity buses are available. The Friday program also provides the flexibility for students to work, perform community service, participate in extra curricular activities, or take additional courses in elective and academic fields. A daily “*instructional focus*” in each instructional block provides a ten-minute focus on effective strategies in the areas of reading, writing, and math aligned with Sunshine State Standards. Another daily program, *Tornado Time Out for Reading*, is a twenty-minute period of sustained silent reading for students and staff that rotates through the curriculum blocks.

**Results:** FCAT Reading and Math scores for grades 9 and 10 considerably higher than district and state.

**Practices that Promote High Performance:**

- Unique schedule maximizing use of time and resources
- Daily focus in each academic block targeting effective strategies for reading, writing, and math
- A period of sustained silent reading daily for all students and staff