



Executive Summary

Colonial High School

Orange County Public Schools

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Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

Colonial High School is characterized as an urban high school that serves a minority-majority population in the Azalea Park, Rio Pinar, and Vista Lakes neighborhoods of Orlando, Florida. The school was built on 57 acres of land in 1958. The campus underwent total reconstruction in 2000, at the cost of \$49 million. The new Colonial High School campus was completed in 2004. In 2007, an additional 15 acres of land was purchased at the old entrance of the main campus; this effectively expanded the campus to 72 acres. Currently, the total population of 3,202 students are housed on two campuses which are geographically separated by 3 miles. In 2012, the school began receiving federal Title I benefits with 81% of the students receiving free or reduced lunch benefits.

Colonial High School educates a very diverse population of students. The current student body is 72% Hispanic, 14% White (Non-Hispanic), 9% Black, and 5% Asian, American Indian, or Multi-Racial. English Language Learners make up 19% of the population. The student mobility rate is 33.71%. Colonial High School has 188 instructional staff members. Of the instructional staff, 10% are first year teachers, 36% are teachers with 1-5 years of experience, 33% are teachers with 6-14 years of experience, and 19% are teachers with over 15 years of experience. Additionally, 40% of the instructional staff hold advanced degrees, 12% of teachers are reading endorsed, and 19% of teachers are ESOL endorsed. The demographic makeup of the instructional staff is 51% White/Non-Hispanic, 24% Hispanic, 18% Black or African American, 4% American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 3% Asian.

In 2012, Colonial welcomed a new principal, Dr. Jon Prince. Since then, the school has increased its 4-year graduation rate from 74% (2011-12) to 84% (2013-14) with additional students graduating within 5 years. This dramatic increase can be attributed to an intense focus on student data, ensuring that all students had multiple opportunities and differentiated academic support to meet the graduation requirements. The school grade assigned by the Florida Department of Education has also improved from a "C" (2011-12 and 2012-13) to a "B" (2013-14). This is highest grade Colonial High School earned since school grading began in Florida in 1998.

Changes to legislation in Florida have had a huge effect on the education climate. Senate Bill 736 caused a widespread overhaul to teacher evaluation and student assessment. These changes resulted in the administration of end of course assessments for every course that is offered in addition to the Florida State Assessments. As a result, a great deal of instructional time has been traded for student assessment. This school year, the State of Florida also introduced more rigorous standards for language arts and mathematics. Graduation requirements have been changed to include an online course requirement.

Another major change that has occurred at Colonial High School this year is a switch from an alternating block schedule to a traditional 7 period schedule allowing for 50 minutes of instruction in each class every day. Although the block schedule has been in place since the 1990's, the transition to the new schedule has been seamless.

Colonial High School faces a number of challenges associated with the community we serve. Among them are the high number of students that are economically disadvantaged, the attrition rate of our higher performing students to other schools, as well as our high mobility rate. One of the biggest upcoming challenges is the school-wide implementation of digital curriculum. All students and teachers will be provided with a laptop and the majority of instruction will occur in a blended manner. This will be an enormous shift in practices for both of our teachers and students. The school district provides a great deal of professional development and additional financial support through grants.

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such as the Teacher Incentive Fund. This additional support along with our community partnerships help us address our challenges.

School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

OCPS Mission Statement: To lead students to success with the support and involvement of families and the community.

OCPS Vision: To be the top producer of successful students in the nation.

Colonial HS Mission: The mission of Colonial High School is to educate and inspire all student to become caring, productive, responsible citizens who meet the challenges of a changing world.

Colonial HS Vision: Colonial High School is committed to establishing a learning environment that is based on excellence in academic performance. Together with parents, students, and staff, we will facilitate learning and a social environment that will assure a successful and rewarding life for all students. We will infuse the curriculum with rigorous instruction to help students become productive and responsible citizens. This vision is reflected in our school mission, and across our curriculum. Parents, students, community members and staff will continue to share this vision of students achieving "Academic Excellence" in the 21st century.

Colonial High School is committed to establishing a learning environment that is based on excellence in academic performance. The most successful high school graduates are those who exhibit readiness through participation in college and/or career path courses. Currently 67% of the student body engages in accelerated coursework through one of the many programs offered on-campus or in conjunction with community education partners. It is a clearly communicated expectation that all students engage in accelerated coursework at some point in their high school career.

To assist students in meeting these expectations, Colonial offers a wide range of courses and specialized programs to promote college and career readiness. For students who have specialized career interests, Colonial offers National Academy Foundation (NAF) accredited academies, magnet programs, and industry certification courses. The NAF Academy for Hospitality and Tourism is a school within a school offering a highly challenging curriculum to students in tourism related management and technology courses. The NAF Academy of Information Technology magnet offers students challenging curriculum in digital media and information technology. The Veterinary Animal Science magnet program is designed to attract students from across the district who are interested in agriculture and animal science. Students in the magnet programs take a four year sequence of courses that align to academic, employment and workplace standards. Colonial is the only high school in the district that offers an Auto Service Technology program on campus. For students with interests in other careers not offered at Colonial, the students can participate in an off campus dual-enrollment program through local technical schools. These schools integrate vocational and academic curriculum by providing an apprentice-based experience for its students. Students can also prepare for a career in military service through the Air Force JROTC program which is one of the largest in the nation with a population of 500 cadets.

With the increasing pressure to churn out students who are college ready, Colonial High School offers Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID), a system designed to advocate for and provide academic support to potential first generation college students from low-income families. Motivated students can also select from a variety of Advanced Placement courses or even opt for a dual-enrollment with Valencia College. Recently added to our extensive list of offerings is the Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) through Cambridge International Examinations. This program provides students with exposure to one of the most demanding and rigorous college

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preparatory programs in the world. The addition of this rigorous academic program has attracted high performing students that otherwise would have chosen to leave Colonial to pursue the International Baccalaureate programs offered by other high schools in the area.

For students who require specialized academic support, the Exceptional Education program provides a wide range of services. Students who are striving for a standard diploma may be offered both consultation and direct service classes. Students who are pursuing a special diploma participate in a career program or the Community Based Vocational Education program.

Colonial High School also hosts many extracurricular clubs. Among these are chapters of the National Beta Club, National Honor Society, and National FFA Organization. Other organizations include Student Government, Choir, Band, Dance, the FIRST robotics team, and the National Hispanic Society. Each of these school sponsored clubs strive to have a positive impact in the community. These students volunteer at the local hospitals, homeless shelters, animal shelters, and nursing homes. Fifty-two of those students earned their "green cord" at graduation for completing over 100 hours of service.

Colonial High School schedules many events throughout the school year to attract families and community members. Each month there are School Advisory Council and Parent Teacher Student Association meetings to inform the community about activities at Colonial, discuss relevant issues, and make important decisions about the school. There is also a Parent Leadership Council meeting allowing parents of non-English speaking students to have a voice. At various times throughout the year, Colonial hosts special events like Open House, Magnet Fair, Advanced Placement Night, and All About Colonial Night as well as cultural events like music concerts and dramatic performances. On most nights throughout the school year sporting events are in progress and well attended. The principal maintains a strong community presence by attending church-sponsored community events and communicates to parents frequently through weekly electronic newsletters and School Messenger phone calls.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

Colonial High School is proud of its many accomplishments. Over the past three years, Colonial has improved the the quality of instruction and the variety of rigorous program offerings. Colonial increased its 4-year graduation rate from 74% (2011-12) to 84% (2013-14) with additional students graduating within 5 years. In 2013-14, the 10th graders made the highest single-year improvement in the entire state for writing proficiency. The school grade issued by the Florida Department of Education has improved to a "B", which is the highest score Colonial has ever earned. With the addition of rigorous programs, like Cambridge, the loss of high achieving students to neighboring schools has decreased.

Colonial High School boasts numerous co-curricular and extracurricular achievements. Colonial's Air Force JROTC unit has won numerous national awards throughout the years, but notably this year the program was recognized with the Distinguished Unit Award. This award is presented to the top 20% of JROTC programs nationally. The FFA has taken top honors in national competition three years in a row. The girls basketball team fought their way to the state championship game, bringing statewide recognition to our school. Combined, these accomplishments and many more have contributed to Colonial's improved image within the community.

In the face of a changing world, Colonial High must continue to improve the quality of instruction in each and every classroom to ensure the students are fully-prepared 21st century citizens. Through a partnership with Learning Sciences International the school is striving to be a Marzano Demonstration School for Rigorous Instruction. Through continued professional development to support the implementation of research-based instructional practices, the school looks forward to reaping learning gains in all academic areas.

The school also looks forward to overcoming the challenges associated with digital curriculum implementation. Within the next three years, the goal is to build the capacity of teachers and students leading to an increase in the use of personalized instruction within a highly engaging environment.

Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

Colonial High School is unique as a result of having two campuses that serves its students. The Freshman campus houses the 9th grade students and the Main Campus contains 10th-12th graders. Because of this geographic divide, some of our elective teachers split their instructional time between both campuses in order to provide our students equitable access to course offerings. Freshmen that participate in any extracurricular activities are provided transportation to the Main Campus in order to take part in these programs.