Education

Cultivating precious resources in the perfect learning environment
Palm Beach County’s Excellent Education Opportunities are INCLUSIVE, INTELLIGENT, EXPANSIVE, AND INVENTIVE

With a passionate focus on quality and achievement from pre-K to Ph.D., Palm Beach County’s education ecosystem knows our children will compete in globally interconnected markets, and work in a knowledge-based economy that demands high-level skills. Our education-intensive focus prepares the next generation for constant evolution by providing exceptional quality for all students in public and private institutions.

Public Schools
The School District of Palm Beach County is the fifth-largest school system in Florida and the 11th-largest in the country, with 185 schools serving more than 183,000 (total K-12) students. It is also one of the most highly regarded urban school districts in the nation, earning another “A” rating with the highest number of District-operated “A” schools compared with other large urban school districts.

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Points of Pride:
• Palm Beach Atlantic University and Lynn University ranked as the Best Regional Universities in the South – according to U.S. News & World Report (2018)
• Florida Atlantic University ranked in Best National Universities according to U.S. News & World Report (2018)
• Suncoast Community High School made the list of top 500 national high schools according to Florida Today (2018)
• The School District of Palm Beach County has a 90% graduation rate, 68% of its students from 2017 attended a postsecondary institution, and 73% of its schools are rated A and B.
• Florida Atlantic University’s A.D. Henderson University School has been named the No. 2 Best Public Elementary School and the No. 8 Best Public Middle School in America by Niche, the largest website for researching public and private K-12 schools.

Uniquely Positioned for Academic Excellence
In the School District of Palm Beach County, 197 countries and territories of birth are represented – creating cultural vibrancy and uniquely positioning us to take advantage of the shift toward economic and cultural globalization. It is reflected in the curricula of our schools, the diverse populations they serve, and the skills and expertise our students ultimately bring to the workforce.

The School District of Palm Beach County is a national leader in the quality and diversity of its Career Academies and Choice programs, with 279 award-winning options that include:

25 Medical programs
19 Aerospace, Engineering, and STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) programs
19 Culinary Choice programs
16 International Baccalaureate Choice programs
15 Teacher and Early Childhood Education programs
12 ROTC programs
11 Information Technology programs
10 Business, Finance, International Business, and Marketing
9 Performing Arts Choice programs
8 Biotechnology and Environmental programs
5 Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) Programs from University of Cambridge
4 Construction programs
3 Veterinary Sciences programs
3 Hospitality and Tourism programs
1 in Biomedical, Engineering, Animation, and Robotics

Additional Choice Academies include:

Our public schools also offer various language courses, including: Chinese, French, Italian, Latin, Spanish, Haitian, Creole, American Sign Language.
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The School District of Palm Beach County offers one of the nation’s most-recognized and extensive-Advanced Advanced Studies programs including Advanced Placement, 16 different International Baccalaureate program choices; middle school Pre-International Baccalaureate, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM); and Cambridge University’s Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE). The District also has Gifted and Art programs in all school levels.

There are more than 50 charter schools sponsored and administered through our School District. They are public schools, and the District’s Charter Department provides them academic, financial, operational, and technical assistance. Many offer a traditional curriculum track, but there are schools specializing in everything from art to maritime sciences.

A. D. Henderson University School is a public school and part of Florida Atlantic University Schools. It outperforms the majority in high school and university course work, due to its students’ rigorous academic schedules, and the intensity of course work provided to them.

Palm Beach County provides education opportunities for children with special needs from birth to age 22. The School District provides an innovative Exceptional Student Education program through its public schools, as well as charter and private schools offering an array of specialized education options.

Private and Faith-Based Schools

Palm Beach County and South Florida have a significant number of highly regarded private and faith-based K-12 schools, offering educational opportunities including college prep schools, alternative schools, schools with strong religious affiliations, art and music academies, special needs, Montessori education, and more. Palm Beach County can boast the #1 private K-12 schools, by Niche, the largest website for researching public and private schools.

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Colleges and Universities

Florida Atlantic University serves over 30,000 students via more than 180 undergraduate and graduate degree programs. FAU is recognized as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Information Assurance Cyber Defense Research. It is home to the Southeast National Marine Renewable Energy Center, and boasts an executive MBA program recognized in Bloomberg Businessweek’s annual “Best Business Schools” report. It opened its college of medicine in 2005 which matriculates 64 medical students each year and has been nationally recognized for its innovative curriculum. With 50% of its student body classified as minority or international students, Florida Atlantic University ranks as the most racially, ethnically, and culturally diverse institution in Florida’s State University System.

At Keiser University, serving more than 18,000 students, 62% graduate with degrees in science, technology, engineering, math, and healthcare fields. Keiser’s educational reach also extends globally through its international programs, including the Latin Division, a cooperative agreement in the eastern European nation of Moldova, and a campus in Shanghai, China.

Ranked #1 in 2018’s list of Most International Students/Regional Universities by U.S. News and World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges,” Lynn University is grounded in the liberal arts, providing a collection of colleges oriented toward emerging professional opportunities for its 2,900+ students from 90 countries and 45 states and territories.

Nova Southeastern University, a pioneer in distance learning, is one of only 37 higher educational institutions nationwide to earn designations for both High Research Activity and Community Engagement from the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

At Palm Beach Atlantic University, graduates of its highly regarded nurse practitioner and pharmacy programs consistently perform above national averages on licensing exams.

Palm Beach State College, serving 49,000+ students annually with more than 100 programs of study, is ranked among the top 150 colleges in the nation by the Aspen Institute. It also boasts the ninth-lowest tuition in the nation for institutions offering four-year or higher degrees, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

To ensure that our students have access to mentors, internships, apprenticeships, and jobs, the BCC created the Academic Leaders Council. Mentoring currently, it’s comprised of university presidents, CareerSource Palm Beach County, and the superintendent of the county’s School District. The council collaborates with private companies to ensure classroom curriculum aligns with skills required for high-quality jobs.
Cultivating precious resources in the perfect learning environment