

Superintendent's WEEKLY UPDATE
December 11, 2009

Five High Schools Named Among Best High Schools 2010
By *U.S. News & World Report*

Five Broward County Public Schools high schools - Atlantic Technical Center, Fort Lauderdale High School, Nova High School, Pompano Beach High School, William T. McFatter High School - were named among the Best High Schools 2010 in a recent analysis conducted by *U.S. News & World Report*. All five high schools received silver medals - representing the top 3% of high schools in the country. *U.S. News & World Report* - in collaboration with School Evaluation Services, a K-12 education and data research and analysis business that provides parents with education data on (schoolmatters.com) - analyzed academic and enrollment data from more than 21,000 public high schools in 48 states to identify the best across the country. The schools were placed into gold, silver, bronze or honorable mention categories. A three-step process determined the best high schools. The first two steps ensured that the schools serve all their students well, using state proficiency standards as the benchmarks. For those schools that made it past the first two steps, a third step assessed the degree to which schools prepare students for college-level work.

Recently Released Graduations Rates Show More Students Graduating

The newly applied National Governor's Association (NGA) formula for high school graduation was released last Friday. As you recall, Broward County Public Schools had an increase in the graduation rate from 69.7 percent in 2007-08 to 73.9 percent in 2008-09. Additional data provided this week also shows that over a four-year period, Broward's students registered increases in graduation for every race/ethnic subgroup. Finally, when looking at individual school data, 60 percent (≈20) of non-charter high schools increased their NGA graduation rate by at least one percentage point or more from 2007-08 to 2008-09. Notably, Dillard, South Broward, Atlantic Technical and Coconut Creek high schools dramatically increased their graduation rates and are the Broward schools that made the highest gains during the last two years reported.

Florida PTA Names Daniel Traeger “Outstanding Principal of the Year”

The Florida PTA has named West Broward High School Principal Daniel Traeger “Outstanding Principal of the Year” for secondary schools. Traeger was recently honored with the award at the Florida PTA 2009 Annual Convention in Orlando. Each year the Florida PTA recognizes an elementary and secondary school principal who is supportive, helpful and personally involved in the PTA.

District Meets School-wide Class Size Targets

Congratulations are once again in order for Team Broward! A recent report from the Florida Department of Education indicates that all Broward non-charter schools are again within school-wide class size compliance targets for class size. Given the current economic situation, this accomplishment is particularly noteworthy. Great job Team Broward!

Broward County's Character Trait for December is Kindness:

KINDNESS: Being helpful, thoughtful, caring, compassionate and considerate.