



**PERSONAL | PASSIONATE | PROGRESSIVE**



2021-2022

# **IMPACT REPORT**

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA



## GOVERNANCE TEAM



**Armor Persons**  
District 5 (Chair)



**Samuel Fisher**  
District 1 (Vice Chair)



**Melisa W. Giovannelli**  
District 2



**Chris N. Patricca**  
District 3



**Debbie Jordan**  
District 4



**Jada Langford-Fleming**  
District 6



**Cathleen O'Daniel Morgan**  
District 7



**Christopher Bernier, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent

The past year was a time of growth, transition and resiliency for The School District of Lee County, providing many examples of our District's **PERSONAL, PASSIONATE** and **PROGRESSIVE** approach to meeting the needs of our students and community. Our District rose to the eighth-largest school district in Florida and worked alongside families and community partners to prepare our students for the future.

In our 2021-2022 Impact Report, you will learn about the great strides the District has taken over the past 12 months. One of many examples includes the advances of specialty programs like Parent University, which offers families information about resources, services and educational activities in our community. You will also learn how the District's stewardship of revenue raised by the half-cent sales tax has championed critical new construction for schools such as Amanecer Elementary and improvements in safety and security.

Furthermore, you will read heartwarming stories of our world-class staff and resilient students who are impacting lives and benefiting from District programs, like Harns Marsh Elementary teacher Nicole Schofield, Dunbar High senior Mia Santiago and Mariner High JROTC teacher Sgt. Major Kim Williams. As a former teacher myself, nothing makes me happier than seeing lives changed through education and opportunity.

I strongly believe in listening and learning before leading, and we hosted many town hall sessions and gained valued input from parents that will help guide our actions moving ahead. The future is now, and I am excited about the forward-thinking trajectory of our District as we work to meet the academic and social-emotional needs of our students.

I invite you to learn more about our work to help students reach their highest potential and join us in making an even greater impact in the school year ahead.

**Christopher Bernier, Ed.D., Superintendent**

# 2021-2022 DISTRICT PROFILE

**97,264**

Student Enrollment  
for 2021-2022



**8<sup>TH</sup>**

Largest School District  
in Florida



**33<sup>RD</sup>**

Largest School District  
in the Nation



**12,040**

Number  
of Employees

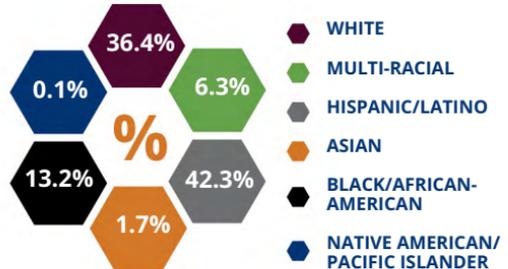
## STUDENT RACIAL DIVERSITY

## STUDENT PRIMARY LANGUAGES

**160** DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

**156** DIFFERENT COUNTRIES

**45,905** STUDENTS LIVE  
IN HOMES WHERE ENGLISH IS  
NOT THE PRIMARY LANGUAGE



## NUMBER OF SCHOOLS

**45**

ELEMENTARY

**4**

K-8

**16**

MIDDLE

**15**

HIGH

**15**

SPECIAL  
CENTERS

**23**

CHARTER

**=118**



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY OPERATES  
THE 9<sup>TH</sup> LARGEST BUS FLEET IN FLORIDA

**912**

BUSES

**668**

ROUTES

**47,382**

STUDENTS TRANSPORTED





# CHANGE FOR CHANGE

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK FOR STUDENT SUCCESS

## ½ CENT SALES TAX

Revenue raised by the half-cent sales tax approved by voters in 2018 topped projections by \$28 million and raised \$115 million in 2021-2022. This funding may only be spent on school construction, renovations and maintenance, technology upgrades and improvements to campus safety and security. Construction projects, followed closely by technology upgrades, were the largest investments.



## AMANECER ELEMENTARY

A groundbreaking ceremony was held for Amanecer Elementary School in April 2022. Sales tax revenue is helping to support the \$56.5 million campus. Amanecer will be the District's first Cambridge program elementary school. It will have nearly 1,000 students upon opening in August 2023.

## SAFETY AND SECURITY

The District made a commitment to ensuring the health and safety of students and staff by installing the *Centigix Crisis Alert* system in all schools and central office buildings. Every employee has the ability to call for help in a medical emergency or initiate a lockdown in case of a schoolwide emergency. Visible and audible alerts provide staff and students immediate notification, in addition to automatically notifying law enforcement when appropriate.



## ORIGINAL LEHIGH ACRES MIDDLE SCHOOL RENOVATED

The original Lehigh Acres Middle School on Arthur Avenue was renovated to bring the campus in line with current district standards. The \$18.6 million project created new classrooms, new science and computer labs with state-of-the-art equipment, dedicated rooms for dance, music and art, an upgraded gym and a media center with all new materials. The school will be renamed and have students return to the campus in 2023. The campus was vacated after completion of the new Lehigh Acres Middle School on Sunrise Boulevard.



# 2021-2022 BUDGET

## WHERE DOES THE GENERAL FUND COME FROM?

The School District has a total budget of \$1.933 billion. The biggest part of this budget, \$967 million, is the general operating budget, used for most daily operating expenses. A very large budget may seem hard to understand, but our budget is just like your budget at home.

LESS RESTRICTIVE



MORE RESTRICTIVE

### LOCAL SOURCES

65%



Local revenues account for 65% of the District's total budget. Property taxes are the largest source of revenue from local funding.

### STATE SOURCES

27%



State revenue makes up less than one-third of revenues The School District of Lee County receives. The Florida Department of Education oversees state funding and distributes funds to all districts through numerous formulas, grants, allotments and programs.

### FEDERAL SOURCES

8%



Federal funds are very restrictive and may only be used for specifically designated programs. Federal funds are the smallest source of revenue for the District and account for 8% of the District's budget.

## HOW IS THE MONEY USED?

51%

### General Fund

operating budget that guides day-to-day activities. 68% of this fund goes to salaries and benefits.

30%

### Capital Projects Fund

our long-term school construction and repair needs.

8%

### Internal Service Fund

used for self-funded health insurance, workers compensation insurance, and general liability insurance.

5%

### Debt Service Fund

used to pay the principal and interest on bonds that we issue to finance school construction and renovation.

3%

### Child Nutrition Fund

used for operating our schools' nutrition programs.

3%

### Special Revenue Fund

includes federal grants and entitlements that are received by the District.



## CLASS OF 2022 EARNS MILLIONS IN SCHOLARSHIPS

The School District of Lee County's graduating class of 2022, who earned more than \$52 million in scholarships, **is attending colleges, universities and technical centers across the United States.**

# 2022 GRADUATING CLASS

- 1,840** Four-year college/university
- 1,288** Two-year community/state college
- 642** Uncertain
- 569** Technical college/school
- 298** Enter workforce directly
- 171** U.S. Armed Forces
- 418** Other



## ADVANCED STUDIES | GIFTED | SPECIAL ED

District offerings include the prestigious **International Baccalaureate (IB)**, **Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE)**, **Advanced Placement (AP)**, **Honors programs** and **Dual Enrollment** at the high school level in each attendance zone.

**63%** of high school students were enrolled in at least **ONE ADVANCED STUDIES COURSE** during the 2021-2022 school year.

As of **DECEMBER 2022** there are

**5,484 STUDENTS** participating in **GIFTED PROGRAMS** & **12,823 STUDENTS** receiving **SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES.**

# Career & TECH EDUCATION

## 2021-2022 BY THE NUMBERS

**Traditional college isn't the only path to a successful future**, and students see the tremendous opportunity in career and technical education. The School District of Lee County is expanding opportunities for students that will prepare them for a variety of career paths during middle school and high school, setting them up for career success after graduation.

# 100%

**of LEE COUNTY HIGH SCHOOLS**  
(15 total) offer at least one Career & Technical Education program

# 80+

**DIFFERENT INDUSTRY-STANDARD CERTIFICATIONS** offered to high school students

# 3,284

**INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS & DIGITAL TOOL CERTIFICATES**

earned by students in grades 6-12

# 37%

**GRADUATED WITH AT LEAST ONE INDUSTRY CERTIFICATION** in the Class of 2022

# 37,000+

**COURSE ENROLLMENTS in Career & Technical Education in grades 6-12**

## PROGRAMS

**Career & Technical Education** consists of **16 different career clusters**. Within each of these clusters are multiple programs that prepare individuals for occupations important to **Florida's economic development**. Each program includes the **academic** and **technical** skills required to be successful in today's economy.

### Middle Schools

- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Business Management & Administration
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Information Technology

### High Schools

- Agriculture, Food & Natural Resources
- Architecture & Construction
- Arts, A/V Technology & Communication

- Business Management & Administration
- Education & Training
- Engineering & Technology
- Finance
- Health Science
- Hospitality & Tourism
- Information Technology
- Law, Public Safety & Security
- Manufacturing
- Marketing
- Transportation, Distribution & Logistics



# PEOPLE WITH Passion

## EXCITING THINGS ARE HAPPENING IN THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY EVERY DAY.

### JROTC TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Many freshmen at **Mariner High School** meet **Sgt. Major Kim Williams** on the first day of school. She teaches a class focused on self-esteem, confidence, leadership and citizenship in the **Leadership Academy**. Her guidance helps them manage the transition to 9th grade. The Army took notice of her success and honored her as the **2022 Cadet Command JROTC Army Instructor of the Year**. Sgt. Major Williams also coaches the Academic/Leadership Team, Drill Team, and Raider Team, all of which have competed at the district, state and national level.



### LIFE-SAVER

**Dunbar High School** senior **Mia Santiago's** graduation cap listed all the people she had to thank when she walked across the stage to get her diploma. On just the fifth day of her senior year, Mia collapsed in cardiac arrest. Her teacher used the newly installed **Centegix Crisis Alert System** to call for help and another staff member rushed into the room with the school's automated external defibrillator (AED). The quick response saved her life. Mia woke up surrounded by notes of encouragement from her classmates. The strength that her support system gave her helped Mia recover and finish the year back at school.



### MORE THAN A TEACHER

**Nicole Schofield** likes to remind herself, as she starts her day teaching at **Harns Marsh Elementary School**, to be the person you needed when you were younger. As a child, Nicole spent two years in foster care group homes. She needed a parent, and now as an adult, has devoted herself to being one. **Nicole has been a foster parent to 21 children**, two of which she adopted as her own. Because of this, she was able to reunite brothers that had been separated by the system. The boys say love is what makes them a family.



# Community INVOLVEMENT



## PARENT UNIVERSITY

The School District of Lee County was proud to offer the **Parent University** program for the second year. The monthly virtual sessions offered families information about district services and **resources**, community **organizations** with volunteer and growth **opportunities**, and educational **activities** for the whole family. Parents/Guardians **representing 23 district schools** successfully completed the program and were recognized during a School Board meeting in June.

## KEEPING YOUR HEART HEALTHY

The District continued its partnership with the **American Heart Association** through education and fundraising on how to take care of one's heart.

Students at **35 schools** across the District participated in heart month activities and **raised over \$211,000**. Donations support many initiatives with the American Heart Association, especially heart and stroke research. Employees also participated in healthy heart education by participating in **CPR classes** offered by the association. Employees were also encouraged to wear red to raise awareness of heart disease and prevention.



## MULTICULTURAL OUTREACH

The District continued to grow its involvement with **local multicultural organizations** in an effort to reach more families in underserved communities. We continued to expand our partnerships with the Chambers of Commerce of the **Haitian and Hispanic communities**, as well as the **Leading Latinas of Southwest Florida**. Staff participated in networking and outreach events to share information about **services and programs** provided to students and families of the District.

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## **THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY, FLORIDA IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS**

### **SCHOOL BOARD**

239.337.8303 or 239.337.8243

### **SUPERINTENDENT'S OFFICE**

239.337.8300

### **CONSTITUENT SERVICES**

239.337.8154

### **CAREER & TECHNICAL EDUCATION**

239.939.6300

### **DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

239.334.0211

### **DIVISION OF ACADEMIC SERVICES**

239.337.8308

### **DIVISION OF BUSINESS SERVICES**

239.337.8215

### **DIVISION OF HUMAN RESOURCES**

239.337.8197

### **DIVISION OF OPERATIONS**

239.461.8487

### **EXCEPTIONAL STUDENT EDUCATION**

239.337.8104



2855 Colonial Boulevard, Fort Myers, FL 33966

Phone: 239.334.1102 | [www.leeschools.net](http://www.leeschools.net)



**School District of Lee County**



**LeeSchools**



**Lee County Public Schools**



**LeeSchools**