



# 2024 - 2025 IMPACT REPORT



**Denise M. Carlin, Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

It was an honor to be sworn in as the first elected Superintendent for The School District of Lee County in fifty years during the 2024-2025 school year.

From Day One, we set out on a bold new course for our students and staff. We refused to accept being ranked ninth among the ten largest districts in Florida. We refused to accept instructional vacancies as a routine challenge. We refused to accept that eight thousand students were arriving late to school each day due to transportation issues. While change is never easy, it is necessary when the status quo is failing our students. To reach our goal of becoming an A District and rising to the top of the largest districts in Florida, we demanded higher standards, clearer accountability, and a renewed focus on results. We have laid a strong foundation for improvement, and that work is already moving our district forward.

## School Board



From Left to Right

- Melisa W. Giovannelli | District 2
- Jada Langford Fleming | District 6
- Samuel Fisher | District 1
- William F. Ribble, Jr. | District 3 (Vice Chair)
- Armor Persons | District 5 (Chair)
- Debbie Jordan | District 4
- Vanessa M. Chaviano | District 7

## By The Numbers

<b>102,680</b> Student enrollment for 2024-2025	<b>8<sup>th</sup></b> Largest School District in Florida	<b>27<sup>th</sup></b> Largest School District in the Nation
<b>\$2.911 Billion</b> Total Annual Budget	<b>5,469</b> Total Number of Teachers	

<b>118</b> Total Number of Schools	<b>45</b> Elementary	<b>5</b> K-8	<b>17</b> Middle
	<b>14</b> Special Centers	<b>15</b> High	<b>22</b> Charter

**67%** Percent of high school students enrolled in at least one advanced course

## Student Primary Countries

**135**  
different languages

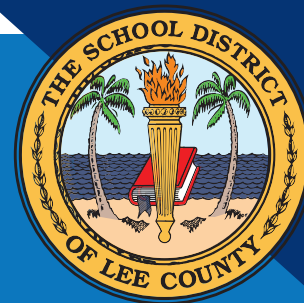
**166**  
different countries

**54,378**  
students live in homes where English is not the primary language

## Student Racial Diversity

<b>45.75%</b> Hispanic/Latino	<b>7.00%</b> Multi-Racial
<b>31.54%</b> White	<b>1.53%</b> Asian
<b>13.43%</b> Black/African-American	<b>0.14%</b> Native American Alaska Native

# Achieving an 'A' District: Our **SIX** Priorities



## 2024-2025 Accomplishments

1

### Ensure Safe & Secure Schools

Every student deserves a safe and respectful learning environment.

- Launched **Safe Start Initiative** to reduce school bus wait times and improve on time arrival.
- Secured **\$2.9M in funding** for enhanced school security.
- Partnered with BusPatrol to issue citations to drivers who illegally pass stopped school busses.

2

### Increase Student Achievement

Student success remains at the center of every decision.

- Added **30 minutes of daily high school instruction**, providing 42 additional hours of learning each year.
- Implemented a **bell-to-bell cell phone policy** to keep students focused on instruction.
- Increased the number of A and B rated schools by 25% across the district.

3

### Expand Technical Education Opportunities

We are preparing students for high-demand careers and strong college pathways.

- Launched **Applied Robotics, Solar Academy, and Environmental Water & Reclamation** programs.
- Expanded **agriculture, marine, and veterinary assisting programs** at 10 high schools.
- Secured \$1.6 million in state grant funding to strengthen Career and Technical Education programs.

4

### Increase Teacher Retention & Recruitment

An excellent education begins with great teachers.

- **Project Believe** reduced instructional vacancies from 230 in January 2025 to 17 by May 2025.
- Approved up to **\$9,000 in incentives** for teachers in critical subjects at at-risk schools.
- Strengthened school and workplace safety through improved staff training and coordinated support services.

5

### Ensure Fiscal Responsibility

Accountability and transparency remain core district values.

- Instituted a **5% budget cut** across all administrative departments.
- **Reorganized administration** with a streamlined and efficient structure focused on student performance.
- **Saved more than \$20M** to reinvest in district priorities and classroom resources.

6

### Empower Parents as Partners in Education

Families are essential partners in every student's success.

- Hosted **Town Halls** to connect parents with the Superintendent, School Board members, and district leaders.
- Created a **Parent Task Force** to identify opportunities that strengthen engagement.
- **Simplified online enrollment** with an easier webpage and step-by-step video guides.



**SCAN** to learn more about our schools and how we're making a difference.