

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### 2015-2016 Opening & Closing School Times

Student Transportation and Fleet Services (ST&FS) continues to improve the level of services being provided to all stakeholders. During the 2014-2015 School Year, staff performed a review of the opening and closing of school bell times at the elementary, middle, high and center levels. The review evaluated opportunities to alleviate late arrivals, improve routing efficiencies and where feasible, to execute District wide large-scale belltime changes. The utilization of newly integrated technology proved successful during the review.

In the previous school year (2013-2014), the Transportation Leadership Team developed a 'Blueprint' entitled **2014-2015 Efficiency Opportunities (Bell Times)**, which was utilized as a tool to present to key stakeholders after a forensic analysis was performed for all schools and centers. The 'Blueprint' identified opportunities to improve efficiencies, effectiveness, customer service, change in programs and the ability to reduce overall transportation expenses. Although changes were not implemented at the opening of the 2014-2015 School Year, the current review performed continued the feasibility of implementing large-scale belltime changes for the 2015-2016 School Year. However, legislative changes occurred late in 2014 impacting the ability to recommend large belltime changes for the upcoming school year.

In brief, during the 2014 Legislative Session, a requirement was included that extended instruction time beyond the normal school day for students who attend one of the 300 lowest performing elementary schools. In previous years, there was only a requirement for 100 of the lowest performing elementary schools. Broward had 32 elementary schools (including 2 charters) on the 300 lowest performing schools' list. This legislative requirement caused many elementary schools to be moved into the 3rd Tier in the afternoon. This shift substantially impacted staff's ability to propose large-scale school opening and closing times. Therefore, the 2015-2016 Opening and Closing School Times reflect small time adjustments of five to fifteen minutes to 12 elementary, 5 middle and 1 high school to improve the quality and level of service being provided by alleviating late arrivals and improving routing efficiencies.