

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Partnership Agreement
Between Broward County and The School Board of Broward County, FL

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

For the past 10 years, The School Board of Broward County, Florida (SBBC), working in partnership with Broward County's NatureScape Broward Program within Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division (EPCRD), has made substantial progress in implementing measures that promote greater environmental sustainability, including the protection and conservation of water resources, landscape and habitat improvements to SBBC facilities. The NatureScape Broward Program has actively engaged the student population, teachers, and staff by instilling values associated with environmental stewardship and sustainability through classroom lessons, outdoor learning opportunities, training and implementation of best management practices. The approval of this item will begin the third 5-year NatureScape Broward Program partnership agreement with Broward County.

School Board Policy 7014 requires environmental stewardship as "an economic, environmental, and social priority to be taught, practiced and implemented throughout the District". The District's Student Progression Plan (District Policy 6000.1), Curriculum and Instructor's Character Education is supported by these Broward County services and programs to promote the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, improve environmental protection, and enhance resource conservation.

Through March of 2017, the program has educated more than 50,000 students and provided training for more than 1,000 leaders and SBBC staff. Major accomplishments include a delivery of 1,779 educational programs and workshops and staff training. There was a creation of 35 learning gardens with a total of 164 certified National Wildlife Foundation school yard habitats. Broward County's public schools is the largest school district in the nation, certified by the National Wildlife Foundation, based on education and training. The annual District/County joint delivery of the County's premier environmental showcase events, Broward Water Matters Day and the annual P3 Eco-Challenge awards ceremony highlights the District's teachers and students for their environmental recognition and achievements.

Conservation of water resources involved an evaluation of 588 existing irrigation systems at 268 school facilities for efficiencies and recommended improvements. The potential total water savings exceeded 375 million gallons of water annually. Indoor water audits and improvements were conducted at 17 schools with a potential total water savings exceeding 20 million gallons of water annually.

The overall NatureScape Broward Program effort is guided by the SBBC's Applied Learning and Environmental Conservation/Utility Management departments and the EPCRD's team of 2.5 FTEs (Full Time Employees), and is supported by additional Broward County technical resources, as needed.