

# Broward County Public Schools New Waiver Application



*Broward County Schools is the largest fully accredited school district in the United States*

School Improvement Waivers are designed to remove barriers to school improvement that have been found in state statute, school board policy, or collective bargaining contract (see School Board Policy #1403). Waivers must be based on sound educational research and evaluation, must be budget neutral to the district, must be supported by stakeholders in the local school community, and must be approved by 66.67% of the faculty. Waivers may be approved for up to five years by the School Board, but the faculty must approve the waiver each year. Waivers must be equitable for all students in a particular student group.

Waiver #	1
School Name:	Pompano Beach High
Board Policy/Contract Article:	6000.1
Board Approved:	TBA
Years Approved:	5
Target Area:	Instructional Schedule
Waiver Status:	New
Initial Year of Implementation:	2015
District's Strategic Alignment Plan:	Instruction/Teaching & Assessing for Learning
Accreditation Standard Alignment:	Teaching and Assessing for Learning

- Pompano Beach High** is requesting a waiver for **Instructional Schedule** for a period of 5 years. **Pompano Beach High** will analyze the data and present them to SAC.
- This waiver proposal was presented, reviewed, and endorsed by all stakeholders of the local school community at meetings on:
 

Community Meeting 1:	01/12/2015
Community Meeting 2:	01/12/2015
Community Meeting 3:	02/02/2015
- The School Advisory Council voted on the **Instructional Schedule** Waiver by 100% (minimum of 51%) on 02/02/2015.
- The Faculty voted on the implementation of **Instructional Schedule** by 96% (minimum of 66 2/3%) on 02/03/2015, according to the voting guidelines in the Broward Teachers Union Contract, Article 15.
- Write the exact language of the school board policy or contract article that the proposed waiver will supersede.

Board Policy 6000.1 (p. 27: D 2 a and b) Definition and Transfer of Credits: a. Definition of Credit: One full credit is defined as a minimum of 135 hours of bona fide instruction in a designated course of study that contains student performance standards. One full credit is defined as a minimum of 120 hours of bona fide instruction in a designated course of study that contains student performance standards for purposes of meeting high school graduation requirements in a school that has been authorized to implement block scheduling. One-half credit is defined to be one-half of the requirement for a full credit. Any school that uses

alternative scheduling must employ a District-approved mechanism to determine successful mastery of student performance standards. b. High school students are not exempted from the 135-hour or 120-hour bona fide instruction rule except as in allowable acceleration mechanisms.

6. State the waiver: change, delete, or add to the policy or contract so as to fulfill the requirements of the proposed waiver.

PBHS will alter the student and teacher calendar by offering a 4-day school week with a fifth day reserved for enrichment activities which may include but not be limited to: mentorships, community service work, tutoring, literacy improvement, staff development, field trips, dual enrollment courses on campus, community partnerships, executive internships and other experiences that would take place beyond the traditional classroom setting. The 7 X 4 plus Enrichment Friday schedule will allow students one day to pursue individual learning, interface with the community, and acquire real-world experiences.

7. State the rationale for the proposed waiver. How will the proposed waiver support school improvement? Give background information, history of barrier, etc.

The reconfigured schedule will improve student achievement by enhancing their ability to complete tasks and assignments, and allow students to focus on subjects during extended days for longer uninterrupted periods of time. The Enrichment Fridays program currently allows for 62 minute blocks in all subject areas. The extended block provides teachers with opportunities to remediate or reinforce academic skills in reading, writing, mathematics, and science. The expanded timeframe of the four day block facilitates insertion of effective strategies that provide students with practice in basic strands of academic knowledge. This waiver has made possible the implementation of two programs that have positively impacted student knowledge and performance on standardized tests, namely Read - Text Dependent Questions (TDQ) and the Instructional Focus and its Assessment. Both of these are driven by the Florida Continuous Improvement Model for academic quality. Thus, this waiver supports all objectives of the Pompano Beach school improvement plan. Our recent SACS peer review for accreditation commended the 7 X 4 plus Enrichment Friday plan and has recommended PBHS to continue its schedule.

8. Recognizing that one strategy alone does not affect school-wide achievement, identify and explain the baseline data for the proposed waiver.

On May 12, 13, &14, 2013; PBHS students participated in enrichment programs (EOC for 9th graders, EOC and AP for all other students)designed to help students succeed academically. Students also participate in the following activities on Friday: Online High School Courses= 395 per year, Dual Enrollment courses offered on campus and average student enrollment: Sociology (35), Public Speaking (20). AP Help sessions prior to exam= (150 students), Green Team (23 students) working on campus gardens with Science Teacher, History Club Field Trips (15 students), participation in Debate Team competitions (20 students), Teen trendsetters reading to and mentoring elementary school children (35 students), participation in Social Studies Fair (20 students), Kids Voting seminar (20 students), History Fair (20 students), various activities for JROTC (15), Broward County SGA convention (20 students, 360 from across district), Broward County NHS convention (15 students, 260 from across district), FFEA convention (20 students, 200 from across district), volunteer hours (332 seniors averaging 147 hours), Silver Knight Projects implementation (12 students), Key Club state convention (4 students), World Languages competition practice (6 students), FCAT Minibat remediation (25 students), First Priority club activities (25 students), Human Relations Council meetings (5 students). In addition many AP teachers offer extra tutoring or practice sessions a few weeks prior to the actual AP test date. PBHS students also participate in the Young Scholar Academy (YSA), a once-a-month enrichment program for gifted elementary and middle school students in Broward County.

9. What reliable research studies, proven strategies, best practices, or similar programs support the probable success of the proposed waiver?

This reconfigured schedule as initially implemented by Dr. Smiley in 1997, has shown a marked improvement in their BAT test scores as well as student FCAT scores. Here at PBHS scores remain well above the county average. Scores include:

10. **Pompano Beach High** will evaluate the effectiveness of the waiver each year. Include current data in alignment to the baseline data to measure the impact of the waiver.

11. We confirm that the **Instructional Schedule** was implemented as described above:

Principal: Hudson Thomas Date: 02/12/2015 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

SAC Chairperson: Jean Robert CleDET Date: 02/12/2015 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

12. This waiver has been reviewed by:

Broward Teacher's Union  
Rep: Pauline Jacobson Date: 02/12/2015 Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

13. This waiver has been reviewed by the Office of Strategic Achievement:

OSA Rep: Date: Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

This waiver application, with original signatures, is to be kept on file at the school and made available to District personnel upon

request.

A scanned version of the completed Instructional Schedule Waiver Process, with signatures, and all other required documents are to be uploaded to [http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/schoolimprove/school\\_staff\\_login.asp](http://www.broward.k12.fl.us/schoolimprove/school_staff_login.asp) by February 8, 2013.

The filename to upload is to be: SchoolName\_GradeLevel\_WaiverNumber\_Date.pdf,  
ex. *Abc\_ES\_1\_02082013.pdf*

**Last updated on: Wednesday, May 13, 2020**