



ALL-AMERICA CITY FINALIST

DELRAY BEACH

Community Snapshot

Located at the southern end of Palm Beach County, Florida, Delray Beach is the fourth-largest city in the county. Visitors and residents alike enjoy the thriving downtown arts district and the town's beaches, festivals and special events, including the Delray Beach International Tennis Championships. In the past 20 years, Delray Beach has undergone a transformation, going from a city in decline to a charming destination that is home to a diverse population, including families and children. Between 1990 and 2008, Delray Beach invested more than \$10.5 million in infrastructure, parks, landscaping and other improvements in partnership with the school district. Village Academy opened in 2000, the first new public school built in a minority community in more than 30 years.

Community Solutions Action Plan

The Delray Beach Education Board's vision is that every child has family and community support that encourages learning, going to school every day and having abundant and enriching summer academic experiences and access to a high-quality, holistic preschool experience. The board's strategies include:

- Strengthening, expanding, scaling and coordinating existing programs and interventions
- Importing, replicating and adapting promising practices and model programs from outside the community
- Developing and creating new and innovative approaches

Partnerships

The Delray Beach Education Board is leading the city's grade-level reading effort, along with partners Mayor Nelson S. "Woodie" McDuffie, City of Delray Beach Education Board, Palm Beach County School District, Palm Beach County Literacy Coalition, Prime Time, Palm Beach County Education Commission, City of Delray Beach Department of Parks and Recreation, City of Delray Beach Department of Community Improvement, Children's Services Council of Palm Beach County, Achievement Centers for Children & Families, Boys Town, Office Depot Foundation, parents, principals and clergy members.

DEMOGRAPHICS

- 60,250 residents
- Approximately 7,750 students
- 62 percent of K-3 students qualify for free or reduced-price meals
- Approximately 55 percent of third-graders read at grade level (state test)
- 27 percent are English language learners
- 94 percent graduation rate
- 78 percent are ready for kindergarten
- **8 percent of students are chronically absent; 20 percent miss 10-17 days per year**
- 19 percent of low-income students have access to summer learning programs

GOALS (BY 2020)

- 82 percent of third-grade students reading at grade level
- Reduce chronic absenteeism to 5 percent; reduce rate of 10-17 absences to 10 percent
- 95 percent of students prepared for school
- 38 percent of low-income students have access to summer learning programs

"We are a small town with high-poverty needs and a big vision to ensure all students have the