



City of Delray Beach

100 N.W. 1st Avenue
Delray Beach, FL 33444

Cover Memorandum/Staff Report

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TO: Mayor and Commissioners
FROM: Terrence R. Moore, ICMA-CM
DATE: July 15, 2025

CONSIDERATIONS REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE EDUCATION ELEMENT OF THE COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Recommended Action:

The City Commission is asked to consider any further modifications or adjustments to proposed amendments to the Always Delray Comprehensive Plan's Education Element before said amendments are submitted to go move through the formal approval process.

Background:

The Always Delray Comprehensive Plan's Education Element serves as the primary document for policy direction that guides the work of the Education Division and City of Delray Beach Education Board. The development of the education element within the Always Delray Comprehensive Plan initially served as an extension of the Public Schools Facilities Element that addressed school concurrency requirements. The expansion of the education element began in 2016 through multiple phases of community engagement and collaboration between the Education Coordinator, Education Board and Planning Department. Throughout these collaboration processes, goals and objectives were developed to guide the work of the education staff and develop strategies to achieve success.

The following goals within the Always Delray Comp Plan serves as the basis for policy direction within the Goals, Objectives, and Policies section:

Goal 1: Education Advocacy: Continue to advocate for the educational needs of residents by fostering and further developing relationships between the education board, local nonprofit partners, government entities, and The School District of Palm Beach County

Goal 2: Quality Education Initiatives: Provide and support extracurricular education and lifelong learning initiatives for residents of all ages

Goal 3: Extracurricular and Lifelong Learning Initiatives: Provide and support extracurricular education and lifelong learning initiatives for residents of all ages

Goal 4: Community Character and Enrichment: Emphasize the importance of educational facility placement and planning within the community by implementing appropriate physical and social infrastructure which enriches the quality of life for residents in surrounding neighborhoods and instills a sense of community pride, while providing a safe and secure environment for students and school employees

Goal 5: Public School Coordinated Planning: Coordinate with the School District of Palm Beach County and other local governments for the planning of public educational facilities consistent with the "Interlocal Agreement Between the School Board of Palm Beach County, Palm Beach County and the Municipalities of Palm Beach County for Coordinated Planning"

All goals within the Comprehensive Plan seek to further the success of Delray Beach Public Schools and educational outcomes of Delray Beach residents. Proposed amendments to each section seek to strengthen the following:

- Partnerships with Delray Beach families and community partners
- Partnerships and initiatives with The School District of Palm Beach County and the city's strategic partners through the development of new policies and refinement of the Comprehensive Plan's performance indicators.
- The City of Delray Beach school readiness, grade-level reading and workforce development opportunities and initiatives.
- City of Delray Beach after school, summer, and nonprofit programming.

The Data, Inventory, and Analysis section of the Comprehensive Plan outlines Delray Beach Public School proficiency, enrollment, capacity, attendance, and program data to propose recommendations for remediation. This section serves as the driver for the policies and strategies proposed within the Goals, Objectives, and Policies Section. Amendments to this section includes updated school performance and enrollment data to provide the Commission with information to drive 2025 goals and priorities. It is the intent to use this data within the workshop for the Commission to develop key initiatives that will promote early childhood success, family engagement, grade-level reading, and workforce development.

Also included in the backup materials are the 2024-2025 School Improvement Plans (SIPs) for each Delray Beach Public Schools. During the June 17th, 2025 Workshop Meeting, the Delray Beach Commission requested formal plans that the School District of Palm Beach County's staff and leadership are implementing to oversee school improvement. The School District of Palm Beach County's instructional and operational strategies are housed within an individual school's School Improvement Plans (SIP). Florida Statutes require each school district board to annually approve SIP plans for schools that meet one of the following criteria:

- Has a school grade of a D or F
- Has significant gaps in achievement on state and standardized assessments by one or more student subgroups,
- Has not significantly increased the percentage of students passing state and standardized assessments
- Has not significantly increased the percentage of students demonstrating Learning Gains
- Has been identified as requiring instructional supports under the Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Excellence (RAISE) program
- Has significantly lower graduation rates for a subgroup when compared to the state's average

SIPs are collaboratively developed by various stakeholders (school leaders, teachers, parents, community partners, and business partners) to create and monitor improvement strategies for each at-risk area (academics and behavior). Each SIP is overseen by the school's School Advisory Committee (SAC) for accountability purposes. The monitoring of these plans is federally mandated through Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), which replaced the No Child Left Behind Act.

Interventions and strategies that some Delray Beach schools are employing due to the implementation of provided School Improvement Plans includes the following:

- State Regional Literacy support through the Florida Department of Education
- Data informed instruction and curriculum

- Mandatory data-driven Professional Learning Communities and Professional Development Opportunities
- Tutoring and small group instruction
- English Language Learner support and ESOL instruction
- Changes to school Master Schedule to include double literacy and math blocks

Each SIP is comprehensive and outlines the School Leadership/ External Stakeholder Team involved with monitoring student data to determine the effectiveness of each strategy, school demographic data, early warning indicators (absences, suspensions, course failures, and non proficiency in math and reading state assessments), district and state comparisons, and the overall improvement plan with annual goals, focus areas and action steps to achieve each goal within the year. The state, District and Board members use these documents to evaluate the school's improvement in the areas identified by each school. Allocations to assist with school improvements are overseen and managed through this document as well.

The proposed amendments, along with any other considerations, will be formally submitted for review by the Planning and Zoning Board and then will come back to the City Commission for formal adoption.