



THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA

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ARTHUR C. JOHNSON, Ph.D.
SUPERINTENDENT

JEFFREY J. HERNANDEZ
CHIEF ACADEMIC OFFICER

September 21, 2009
Bulletin # P-13289-CAO/CPIO

Contact Person:
Debi Elfen, PX 48789

ACTION BY:
October 6, 2009

TO: All Principals and Area Superintendents

FROM: Jeffrey J. Hernandez, Chief Academic Officer 

SUBJECT: FIVE STAR SCHOOL AWARD

A workshop incorporating information and the application process of the Five Star Award will be held on **Wednesday, October 7, 2009**. The workshop will be held in the Fulton-Holland Educational Services Center Cafeteria from 9:00 – 11:00 a.m.

The Five Star School Award is a symbol of achievement presented each year to schools that have shown exemplary community involvement. In order to qualify for this award, each school must document the achievement of 100% of the criteria in the categories of: 1) Community/Business Partnerships, 2) Family Involvement, 3) Volunteers, 4) Student Community Service, and 5) School Advisory Councils.

This award was developed by the Commissioner's Community Involvement Council as a comprehensive incentive program for community involvement in our schools. The plan's goal is to train and recognize schools that document substantive parent, business, and community involvement in school improvement planning and implementation. The purpose of this award program is to provide a yardstick for schools to use in an annual self-analysis of their level of community involvement. To accomplish this recognition requires a school-wide effort over the course of the school year.

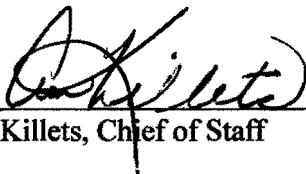
This is the first award of its kind in the nation and last year 78 schools in Palm Beach County achieved this recognition. A list of the schools can be obtained from the Volunteers in Public Schools (VIPS) office.

Please find a copy of the **2009-2010 Official Five Star Application Form** attached to his bulletin. Schools are to submit the application form and portfolio documenting criteria to Debi Elfen, School District Volunteer Coordinator, Fulton-Holland Educational Services Center, Office of Community Involvement. The deadline for submission is **April 30, 2010**.

Please RSVP your workshop attendance to the Office of Community Involvement by **October 6, 2009** at 561-434-8789 or PX 48789.

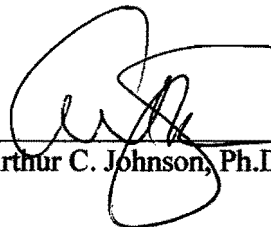
ACJ/AK/JJH/NH/DE:jc

Reviewed:



Ann Killets, Chief of Staff

Approved:



Arthur C. Johnson, Ph.D., Superintendent



2009-2010 OFFICIAL APPLICATION

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SECTION I

Name of School District Palm Beach County

Superintendent Arthur C. Johnson, Ph.D.

Address 3300 Forest Hill Boulevard

City West Palm Beach State Florida Zip 33406 Telephone (561) 434-8000

District School Volunteer Coordinator Debi Elfen

E Mail elfen@palmbeach.k12.fl.us

Address 3300 Forest Hill Blvd. South Ibis "E", Suite 50-116

City West Palm Beach State Florida Zip 33406 Telephone (561) 434-8789

Name of School Nominated _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Telephone (____) _____



Florida Department of Education



SECTION II

Both the letter and spirit of the school improvement and accountability legislation are built upon the active involvement of parents, guardians, business people, and other community members in an effort to improve Florida's schools. The legislative intent is to return the responsibility for education to those closest to the students. That is the schools, teachers, and parents. Recognizing that the involvement of the community is vital to student success, the Commissioner of Education and the former Commissioner's Community Involvement Council established the Five Star School Award.

This symbol of achievement is presented each year to those schools that have shown evidence of exemplary community involvement. Eligible schools are designated annually and must be renewed each year. Schools that achieve this designation will receive the Florida Department of Education's highest award for community involvement.

In order to qualify for this award, a school must achieve 100% of the criteria in the categories of Business Partnerships, Family Involvement, Volunteers, Student Community Service, and School Advisory Councils. The school must also have a portfolio that documents the achievement of each criterion.

A school must have a grade of "C" or above for the 2009-2010 school year to qualify for the Five Star School Award.

Place a check mark in the blank preceding each criterion to indicate accomplishment.

I. Community/Business Partnership

- a. ___ Each community/business/agency signs an annual, jointly developed plan of partnership activities.
- b. ___ Community/business/agency maintains an ongoing, active relationship with school.
- c. ___ Community/business/agency is involved in development and implementation of School Improvement Plan.
- d. ___ Community/business/agency partnership supports teaching and learning through the donation of human resources and goods/services or financial resources.
- e. ___ School designates a community/business partnership coordinator.
- f. ___ School provides opportunities for community/business partners to receive orientation and training.
- g. ___ Community/business partnership coordinator and school staff receive training during the year on effective use of services by business partners.
- h. ___ School provides recognition of community/business partners.

II. Family Involvement

- a. ___ Active parent organization (PTA, PTO, Boosters, etc.)
- b. ___ Education opportunities are offered to families (e.g., Sunshine State Standards, literacy, career planning, parenting, homework assistance).
- c. ___ Focus/discussion/support groups are offered to families (e.g., parenting, drug awareness, safety, and violence prevention, etc.).

- d. ___ Joint parent and student training (e.g., academic skills, family reading, violence prevention, financial aid) is available.
- e. ___ Family outreach activities are offered through collaborative or facilitated activities (e.g., neighborhood meetings, tutorial services, off-site programs).
- f. ___ A minimum of 60% of families are involved in a positive way in the school more than once during the year.
- g. ___ Evidence of a variety of communication techniques with families by teachers and school staff.
- h. ___ Ensure that welcome signage is near the entrance and any other interaction with parents creates a climate in which parents feel valued and welcome.
- i. ___ Provide parents with current information regarding school policies, practices, and both school and student performance.

III. Volunteers

Meets criteria of Golden School Award. These include:

- a. ___ A minimum of 80% of the school staff have participated in school-based volunteer training during the school year.
- b. ___ School volunteer coordinator has been designated to provide leadership for the school volunteer program through recruitment, placement, training, and supervision of participants.
- c. ___ Total number of hours in volunteer service equals twice the number of students enrolled in the school. (Any volunteer activity that contributes to student improvement may be counted.)
- d. ___ School provides recognition of volunteers.

IV. Student Community Service

- a. ___ School provides opportunities to students for service learning that focus on identified community needs (e.g., renovating a park, working at election polls, feeding homeless).
- b. ___ A minimum of 50% of students are involved in community activities (e.g., pen pals to shut-ins, food drives, cross school tutoring activities).

V. School Advisory Council

School Advisory Council/School Decision Making

- a. ___ A minimum of 8 meetings are held per year. Average 80% attendance of members.
- b. ___ Annual presentation of School Improvement Plan to school community after public notice to all stakeholders (school marquee, flyers, etc.) is made.
- c. ___ Evidence of ongoing training and/or development of the School Advisory Council is available.
- d. ___ School Improvement Plan reflects one new idea that involves the community in its implementation.
- e. ___ School Advisory Council participated in the development and/or interpretation of the needs assessment data.
- f. ___ Training provided for staff and SAC members on collaborative partnering and shared decision-making.

Documentation of Accomplishment

A portfolio documenting the accomplishment of each of the criterion is available at the school site.

Yes

No

School Impact Data

What proof can you provide that the community's involvement with your school improved the students' academic work, attendance or behavior? **Please attach an additional sheet for your response.**

Community Involvement Best Practice

Summarize a community involvement best practice initiated by your school to increase student achievement.
(If necessary, please attach additional sheet.)

We hereby certify the information contained in this application is true to the best of our knowledge and belief.

(Signature of Individual Preparing Application Form)

(Title)

(Address)

(Telephone)

(Signature of School Advisory Council Chairperson)

(Signature of Principal)

(Signature of District School Volunteer Coordinator)

(Signature of Superintendent or Designee)

(Address)

(Telephone)



APPLICATION CHECKLIST

Please check the following before returning this application:

1. Have you checked every criterion?
2. Have you clearly identified school district, district school volunteer coordinator and school nominated with complete address and telephone information?
3. Has the application been signed by the person preparing the application and superintendent of the school district?

MAIL TO - your District School Volunteer Coordinator, Debi Elfen at 3300 Forest Hill Blvd., South Ibis "E", Suite 50-116 no later than April 30, 2010.

(Area Superintendent)