



July 2, 2012

Dear Superintendent Gent and School Board Chair Barbieri,

On behalf of the Florida Coordinated School Health Partnership (CSHP) and Florida Action for Healthy Kids, I would like to applaud your district for achieving the status of a Florida Healthy School District at the **GOLD** level. This is a tremendous tribute to the administration and staff of your district. Until this year, no Florida districts were able to meet the stringent criteria to achieve this honor. The School District of Palm Beach County is one of only three districts that will be awarded at this high level.

The criterion for recognition as a Florida Healthy School District is the Florida Healthy School District (FHSD) Self-Assessment Tool. This tool was developed by experts from state agencies, school districts, and community partner organizations working together through the Florida Coordinated School Health Partnership. The self-assessment is based on the eight component areas of the Coordinated School Health model and focuses on district infrastructure, policy, programs, and practices identified from national and state guidelines, best practices, and Florida statutes.

Based on the information provided in your district's submission, it is apparent that The School District of Palm Beach County is performing as a leader in the state as a result of the well established district infrastructure and component area strengths. Recognition achievement levels are based on the overall assessment score and include three categories: Gold at 85%-100%; Silver 67%-85%; and Bronze 42%-66%. **Your district had an overall score of 88.6%**. A nearly perfect score in the area of district infrastructure and support validates why your district is so successful. In the component areas, Palm Beach had strong scores in each component area: Health Education (90%); Physical Education (80%); Health Services (90%); Nutrition Services and Education (70%); Health Promotion for Staff (90%); Counseling Psychological and Social Services (80%); Healthy School Environment (100%); and Family and Community Involvement (90%).

The School District of Palm Beach County is an active member of the Healthy District Collaborative (HDC). The HDC is a group of districts that have made a high level commitment to meeting the health needs of students and staff in order to remove barriers to learning and maximize district resources. The Department of Education,

Superintendent E. Wayne Gent  
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Office of Healthy Schools and Department of Health, Bureau of Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion facilitate quarterly calls, and work with other CSHP members to identify training and resources to support district efforts to achieve the highest standards and sustain effective policies and practices.

The Coordinated School Health Partnership and Florida Action for Healthy Kids look forward to highlighting and promoting your district's successes. Palm Beach County School District is one of nineteen Florida Healthy School Districts featured on the Florida Healthy District website located at [www.healthydistrict.com](http://www.healthydistrict.com). Please visit the site to view your district profile and learn more about the Coordinated School Health Partnership and Florida Action for Healthy Kids.

Yours in health and wellness,



Karen Pesce, R.N.  
Coordinated School Health Partnership



Daniel Caccamo  
State Coordinator - Florida  
Action for Healthy Kids

cc: Bill Montford, Executive Director, Florida Association of District School Superintendents  
Palm Beach County Chamber of Commerce  
Palm Beach County Health Department  
Paula Triana, submitter

