

# State of Education

Superintendent Dr. Denise Carlin

January 20, 2026

SWFL Chamber of Commerce





# Background

- Professional Career in Education for 32 years
  - Teacher
  - Principal
  - District Administrator
- 56 Years in Lee County
- Mom of Two SDLC Grads





# District Mission and Vision

- To ensure each student achieves his/her highest personal potential
- To be a world-class school system





# About Lee County Schools

## Student Enrollment

102,680

## Number of Staff

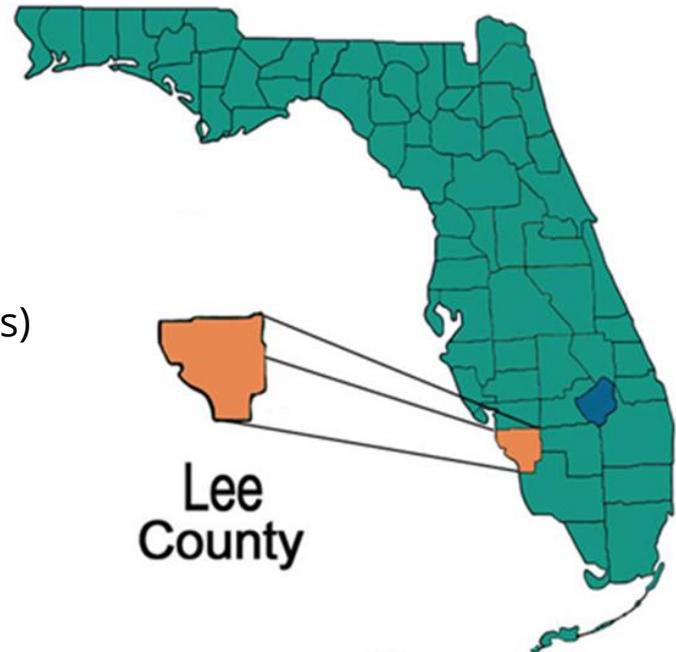
13,000 full time employees

## County Population

793,000

## Number of Schools

118 (Including 21 Charters)





# School District Priorities



Ensure Safe and Secure Schools



Increase Student Achievement



Expand Technical Education Opportunities



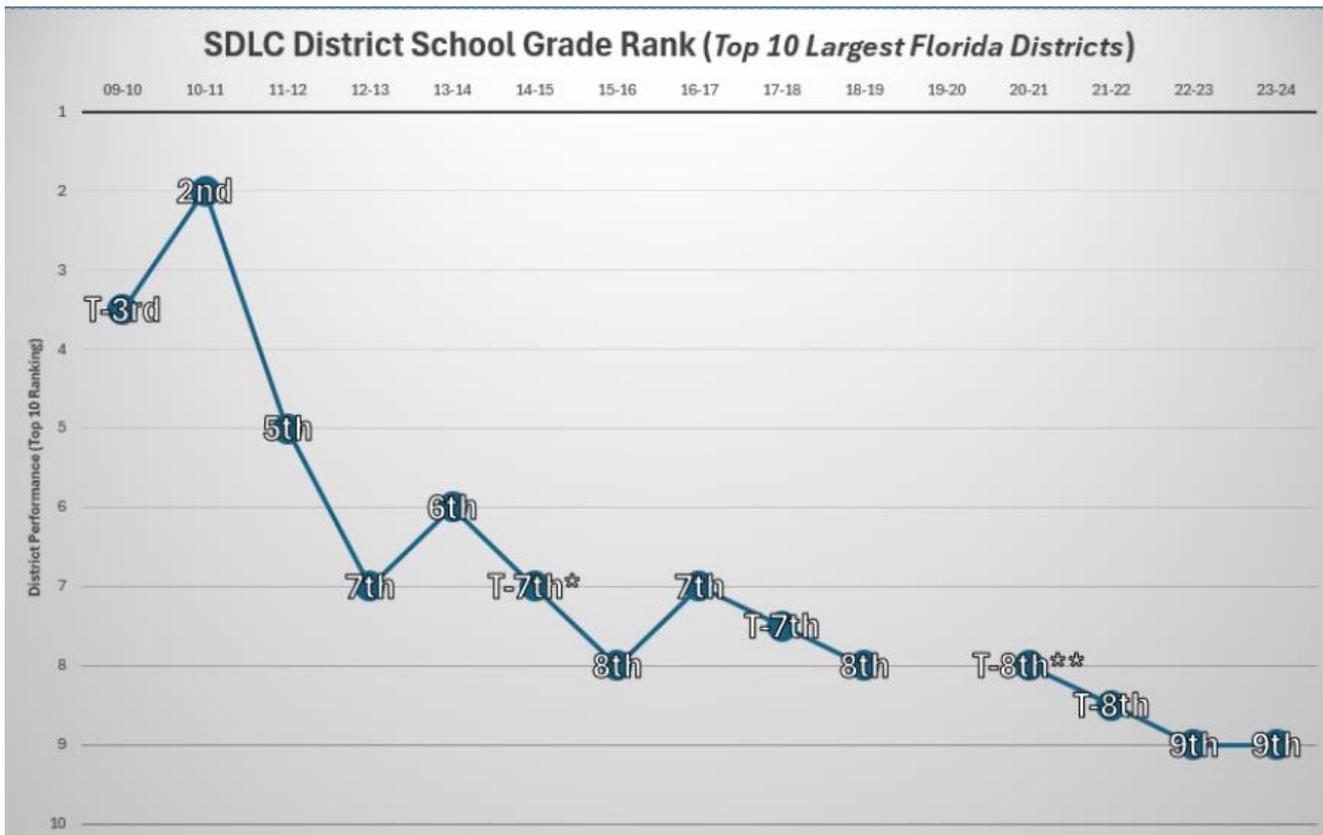
Increase Teacher Retention and Recruitment



Ensure Fiscal Responsibility



Empower Parents as Partners in Education



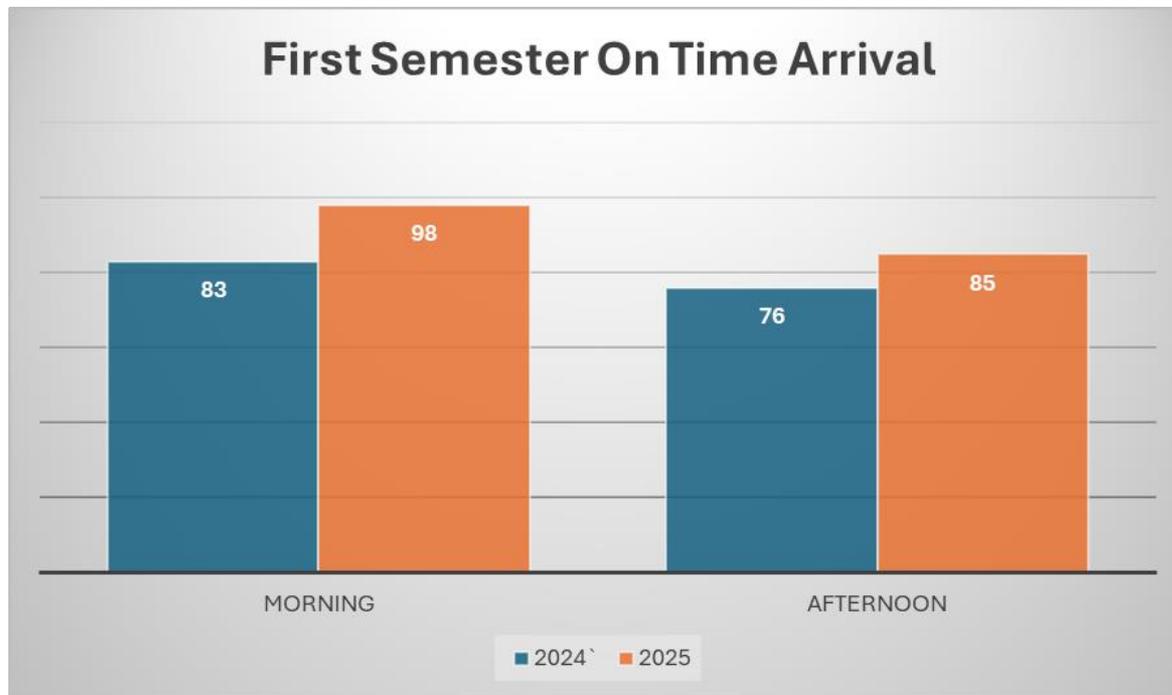


# Instructional Vacancies





# Safe Start Initiative



Buses are considered on-time if they arrive 30 minutes before the first bell





# 2025-2026 School Year Highlights

- **Safety and Security**

- Expanded SRO and Guardian program
- OPENGATE
- \$2.9 million state appropriation
- \$17 million request with Congress pending



- **Student Achievement**

- Increased instructional time (30 minutes per day in high school)
- Cell phones off and in backpacks during the day



- **Continued Growth**

- Alva High School
- Hector Cafferata K-8
- Cypress Lake Middle School Remodel
- Bonita Springs Remodel
- Cape Coral Technical College Expansion





# THE GOAL: BECOME AN "A" DISTRICT

## The Four Pillars

- Student Achievement
- Certified Teacher for Every Classroom
- Increased Instructional Time
- Benchmark Instruction



## Student Recognitions

- 11 National Merit Scholarship Program Semifinalists
- 480 students honored with Advanced Placement Scholar Awards
- 187 students earned their International Baccalaureate Diploma
- 524 students earned their Cambridge AICE Diploma
- 461 students earned College Board National Recognition Awards

