

Judge Barefoot Sanders Magnet Center for Public Service: Government, Law and Law Enforcement

Dallas Independent School District, Dallas, Texas

Location type: Large city

District enrollment: 159,713 students

School enrollment: 391 students

Percentage of students at school eligible for free and reduced price meals: 80

Key Takeaways

Judge Barefoot Sanders Magnet Center for Public Service: Government, Law and Law Enforcement, one of six magnet high schools co-located in a Dallas ISD facility, participated in the OECD Test for Schools in 2014. The results showed school leaders that, although students scored slightly higher than the U.S. mean performance in reading, math, and science, there is room for significant growth in all three content areas. School leaders will continue to analyze OECD Test for Schools results more closely to pinpoint additional areas for improvement and develop a plan of action to meet targeted goals.

Actions Taken

-  To increase student performance, the school has begun offering tutoring support both before and after school. Students identified as needing extra support are required to participate in the tutoring program.
-  The school has partnered on campus with a college access organization that provides students with targeted support to increase performance on national standardized tests such as ACT and SAT. By further developing the skills that students need to perform well on these assessments, the school hopes that a greater percentage of its students will perform at levels 5 and 6 on the OECD Test for Schools.
-  As a campus, the school has identified best practices and defined expectations for both students and faculty to increase expectations and drive programmatic changes.
 -  Specifically, the school has collaborated to define a “model student,” which reshaped expectations beyond only academic ones. At freshmen orientation, these updated expectations, which include engagement (joining one or more clubs, organizations, or academic teams) and excellence (maintain the A/B or A Honor Roll), are introduced. The full set of new expectations is called E.A.G.L.E.: excellence, academics, goals, leadership and engagement.
-  Judge Barefoot Sanders fielded a student survey, the results of which confirmed the demand for and value of best practices such as (1) accountable talk where students are expected to cite evidence to support their statements, (2) learning to apply concepts to real-world problems, (3) increased hands-on activities, and (4) cross-content collaboration between teachers. Students asked for better scaffolding of instruction and asked teachers to use more technology, particularly asking them to incorporate mobile devices into their instruction.
-  This year, classroom walks are being conducted by teachers in conjunction with administrators using the TNTP Core Classroom Walk-Through Tool and Rubric.
 -  Teachers observe their peers and identify their professional development needs. Each walk-through views professional development needs by tiers of teacher, such as new teachers, master teachers, Core subject teachers, etc., to ensure relevant learning for all.
-  Judge Barefoot Sanders participated in the 2014 Convening of World-Leading Schools and a 2015 regional meeting in Houston. Both events aimed to deepen participants’ understanding of their OECD Test for Schools results and help inspire and support practice shifts based on those results.

Those wishing to learn more about the practices at Judge Barefoot Sanders Magnet Center may visit the school's website [here](#).