

Lake Braddock Secondary School

Fairfax County Public Schools, Burke, Virginia

Location type: Large suburb

District enrollment: 183,417 students

School enrollment: 4,033 students

Percentage of students at school eligible for free and reduced price meals: 15

Key Takeaways

When Lake Braddock Secondary School (LBSS) took the OECD Test for Schools in 2014, the results revealed relatively strong levels of student proficiency, particularly in science, but relatively weak teacher-student relationships. Because the school staff believes strongly that students will perform better academically when they feel cared for by their teachers, the school has taken several actions to improve relationships between teachers and students across this 7-12 grade school.

Actions Taken

-  In response to the student survey data, LBSS leaders first established a set of five core values to drive the school's new focus on improving teacher-student relationships. Building on these values, staff is working in a variety of ways to create an environment where students feel respected, comfortable making mistakes, and are challenged to learn.
-  School hallways have been renamed after each of the core values.
-  Another initiative—"Make a Difference Monday"—engages students in the school's anti-bullying and anti-sexual harassment campaign. For example, on one Monday, LBSS students watched a video and then discussed personal thoughts with their peers about how to problem-solve around the issue of bullying.
-  The school's counselors and Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) coordinator are collaborating on several efforts to create positive conditions for learning, including collaborating with the various feeder schools on establishing a week each year dedicated to strengthening relationships and school culture across the feeder pattern.
-  LBSS is also leveraging its OECD Test for Schools results to improve academic performance. For example, school leaders analyzed test results to identify strategies that contributed to students' high achievement in science such as cross-departmental collaboration and reading across the curriculum.
-  The school has also used the OECD Test for Schools to further its reading and literacy initiative, BARE (Bruins Are Readers Everywhere) Time. Silent sustained reading periods are held at the middle school levels and the school encourages reading of any kind in all classes.
-  In 2015, LBSS sent five representatives to the DC-Virginia-Maryland regional meeting, which offered additional opportunities to review results and discuss next steps based on those results with peers.
-  Moving forward, LBSS has entered into a partnership with George Mason University to implement project-based learning in the ninth grade. School leaders believe this initiative will strengthen students' critical-thinking skills and plan to use the 2016 OECD Test for Schools results as an early measure of their progress.

Those wishing to learn more about the practices at Lake Braddock Secondary School may visit the school's website [here](#).