

ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Broward County Public Schools Debate Initiative is a partnership between local businesses and K-12 debate programs within Broward County. With over 15,000 students actively participating, it is the largest debate program in the nation.

WHY DEBATE?

Speech and debate students learn research, logic, organization of ideas, manipulation of language, assessment of audience, self-esteem, and engagement in world events. These skills not only build better students, they build better college candidates, better employees and better citizens.

PARTICIPATING IN DEBATE

Increases literacy scores by 25%

Increases GPAs by 10%

98% of debate students graduate from high school and 95% attend a four-year college

Helps first generation students get recruited and receive scholarships to college

Increases an at-risk student's chance of graduating high school by 70%



Established 1915
BROWARD
County Public Schools



WANT TO GET INVOLVED?

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The School Board of Broward County, Florida: Lori Alkhatif • Torey Alton • Brenda Farn, Esq. • Daniel P. Fogarholi • Debra Nixon • Dr. Jeff Holmes • Sarah L. Lucastri • Nora Rapert • Dr. Allan Zeman • Dr. Howard Peppers, Superintendent of Schools

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DEBATE

ETHOS • PATHOS • LOGOS
Broward County Public Schools

NO DEBATE ABOUT IT

We Need Your Support
Broward County Public Schools
Debate Initiative





Professional Attire

BCPS offers two clothing distribution centers where debate students can receive free professional clothing. These sites are stocked with new and gently used donations received from community members and local organizations. Each year, more than 500 garments are provided to students to look and feel their best at tournaments.

Donations of professional clothing and shoes are always needed, especially for our elementary debate students. Donations can be received at the Kathleen C. Wright Administration Building or by contacting our office at 754-321-1844



"For me, debate was truly transformative. The critical thinking and self-teaching that debate requires changes the trajectory of a student's performance. Nothing motivates preparation more than having to defend an argument; it is the hallmark of a classic education only found now in debate."

SENATOR GEORGE LEMIEUX

Donations Make a Difference

- A donation of **\$50** covers the entry fee for one student to compete in a single invitational tournament
- A donation of **\$500** covers the entry fees for 10 students to compete in a single invitational tournament
- A donation of **\$1,000** covers a team's three-month transportation expenses to local tournaments
- A donation of **\$5,000** covers travel and entry fees for 10 students to compete in national tournaments
- A donation of **\$10,000** covers travel and entry fees for 10 students to compete in the National Championship Debate Tournament

These examples are just some of the ways in which your donations can help our students experience the lifelong benefits of speech and debate. Please consider donating today by visiting this link: browardedfoundation.org/debate



Competitions

Students have opportunities to compete in local tournaments hosted by Broward County Public Schools in addition to national tournaments hosted by prestigious colleges and universities such as Harvard, Emory, University of Florida, and University of California Berkeley. Students also become members of organizations such as the Florida Forensic League and the National Speech and Debate Association, where they can qualify to compete for the titles of State and National Champion in their speech or debate category.*



***Broward County Public Schools is proud to have students named State Champions and National Champions in 2022 & 2023.**