



School Nominee Presentation Form

ELIGIBILITY CERTIFICATIONS

School and District's Certifications

The signatures of the school principal and district superintendent (or equivalents) on the next page certify that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of their knowledge.

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades early learning to 12.
2. The school has been evaluated and selected from among schools within the Nominating Authority's jurisdiction, based on high achievement in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
3. Neither the nominated public school nor its public school district is refusing the U.S. Department of Education Office of Civil Rights (OCR) access to information necessary to investigate a civil rights complaint or to conduct a district wide compliance review. The Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) is not subject to the jurisdiction of OCR. The nominated DoDEA schools, however, are subject to and in compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements to comply with Federal civil rights laws.
4. OCR has not issued a violation letter of findings to the public school district concluding that the nominated public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes. A violation letter of findings will not be considered outstanding if OCR has accepted a corrective action plan to remedy the violation.
5. The U.S. Department of Justice does not have a pending suit alleging that the public school or the public school district as a whole has violated one or more of the civil rights statutes or the Constitution's equal protection clause.
6. There are no findings of violations of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act in a U.S. Department of Education monitoring report that apply to the public school or public school district in question; or if there are such findings, the state or public school district has corrected, or agreed to correct, the findings.
7. The school meets all applicable federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

U.S. Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools 2015-2018

Public Charter Title I Magnet Private Independent Rural

Name of Principal: Ms. Kim Thomasson

(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in the official records)

Official School Name: Gove Elementary School

(As it should appear on an award)

Official School Name Mailing Address: 1000 South East Avenue G

(If address is P.O. Box, also include street address.)

County: Palm Beach State School Code Number *: 1241

Telephone: (561) 993-8700

Web site/URL: http://www.edline.net/pages/Gove_Elementary_School E-mail: kim.thomasson@palmbeachschools.org

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.

(Principal's Signature)

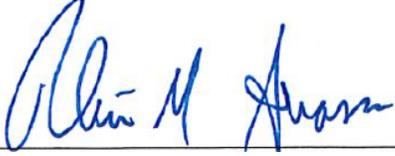
Date: 3/1/2018



Name of Superintendent: Dr. Robert Avossa
(Specify: Ms., Miss, Mrs., Dr., Mr., etc.) (As it should appear in official records)

District Name: The School District of Palm Beach County

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify that to the best of my knowledge all information is accurate.



Date: 3/1/18

(Superintendent's Signature)

Nominating Authority's Certifications

The signature by the Nominating Authority on this page certifies that each of the statements below concerning the school's eligibility and compliance with the following requirements is true and correct to the best of the Authority's knowledge.

1. The school has some configuration that includes grades Pre-K-12.
2. The school is one of those overseen by the Nominating Authority which is highest achieving in the three ED-GRS Pillars: 1) reduced environmental impact and costs; 2) improved health and wellness; and 3) effective environmental and sustainability education.
3. The school meets all applicable federal civil rights and federal, state, local and tribal health, environmental and safety requirements in law, regulations and policy and is willing to undergo EPA on-site verification.

Name of Nominating Agency: Florida Department of Education

Name of Nominating Authority: Commissioner Pam Stewart

I have reviewed the information in this application and certify to the best of my knowledge that the school meets the provisions above.



Date: 3/22/18

(Nominating Authority's Signature)

SUBMISSION

The nomination package, including the signed certifications, narrative summary, documentation of evaluation in the three Pillars, and photos should be submitted online according to the instructions in the Nominee Submission Procedure.

OMB Control Number: 1860-0509

Expiration Date: March 31, 2018

Public Burden Statement

According to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless such collection displays a valid OMB control number. The valid OMB control number for this information collection is 1860-0509. Public reporting burden for this collection of information is estimated to average 37 hours per response, including time for reviewing instructions, searching existing data sources, gathering and maintaining the data needed, and completing and reviewing the collection of information. The obligation to respond to this collection is required to obtain or retain benefit P.L. 107-110, Sec. 501, Innovative Programs and Parental Choice Provisions. Send comments regarding the burden estimate or any other aspect of this collection of information, including suggestions for reducing this burden, to the U.S. Department of Education, 400 Maryland Ave., SW, Washington, DC 20202-4536 or email ICDocketMgr@ed.gov and reference the OMB Control Number 1860-0509. Note: Please do not return the completed ED-Green Ribbon Schools application to this address.

HIGHLIGHTS REPORT

GOVE IS BUILDING A BETTER PERSON AND PLANET BY GOING GREEN!

Gove Elementary is a Title One school in Palm Beach County with over 700 students located in a rural migrant community that has been identified as a food desert. A spark ignited over a decade ago, as a result of being recognized by the Alliance for a Healthier Generation for *Putting the "Unity" Back into Community*, flaming Gove students and staff passion and firmly setting their sights on going green.

Raising awareness and implementing strategies for conservation and wellness at the school level and serving as a positive example to the community has been a natural progression into following the Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) approach. Fifty-plus business partners have played an active role in engaging students to be a better person for our planet through wellness and conservation initiatives while preparing them for future local job opportunities. Mentorship by Florida Atlantic University Pine Jog Environmental Education Center (PJEEC) and the District's Sustainability and Recycling Coordinator enables Gove to expand on their goal to grow as a green school.

Pillar 1:

Gove is a LEED Silver school striving to reduce water and energy usage. For example, the building features include: ice storage air conditioning for thermal energy storage, light colored roofing materials and low e-glazing windows. Further, 100% of the landscaping consists of native species, which require less water, and retention ponds minimize the impact of runoff water. Water is also captured in cisterns for gardens.

The most recent achievement in Gove Elementary School's green journey was being designated a Green School of Quality by PJEEC. This was accomplished through school grounds enhancement, integrating hands-on conservation in the curriculum and reducing waste. One example of solid waste reduction is a partnership with the local hospital to collect old CD's and plastic bottles to upcycle them for the Science, Technology, Engineering, the Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) hovercraft project. Students and Gove's green partners collected 700 CD's and plastic bottles in 60 days!

The student driven Recycle Club is committed to educating peers and staff on recycling properly. They shared their knowledge with administration, resulting in staff training that included a recycling demonstration. Administration supported the club entering the MLK parade using a theme of "Recycle to Beautify our Community" where students educated spectators on the importance of a trash-free community. The administration also rewards staff with specially designated parking spots for carpoolers in an effort to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Pillar 2:

Gove Elementary is recognized as one of America's Healthiest Schools. Despite the challenge of being nestled in sugar cane fields that are seasonally burned, Gove Elementary School has also been recognized as an Asthma-Friendly School through the American Lung Association. Daily precautions are taken by the staff, administration, custodians and the school nurse in keeping the environment safe for students. Wellness and green approaches are woven into the entire school environment beyond the physical education and green team activities. For example, the school's Positive Behavior Intervention Support team promotes the connection between the environment, safety, wellness and the impact

these areas have on behavior. They provide materials, motivation and incentives to encourage staff and students to develop empathy for their community by recycling, conserving water and reducing energy use.

In 2004, Gove highlighted the connection between sustainability and wellness by developing the first “Walk to School” program involving students, parents and community partnerships. In addition to meeting the State physical education mandate of providing 150 minutes of physical education, Gove provides grant funded cross-curriculum activity bags and GoNoodle physical activities for classroom teachers to use during their daily physical education listening block. To increase nutrition education and boost fruit and vegetable consumption, Gove was the first school in the Glades to implement a fruit and vegetable daily snack program. There is also a vegetable and herb garden on campus which actively involves and inspires students to make healthy eating choices.

Pillar 3:

Gove bridges the gap between environmental issues and curriculum through teaching critical thinking and problem-solving skills. For example, the collection of the school’s trash is used in math and science lessons for predicting, collecting, measuring, and reporting data. STEAM teachers collaborate with the science resource teacher to increase student achievement through lessons in a week long instruction of scaffolding math, science, language arts, and character benchmarks.

All Gove students participate in K-6 STEAM classes engaging students in projects such as building historical and current relief maps of the Florida Everglades; creating Everglade model habitats using up-cycled materials and participating in ECO-dramas to reenact how alligators are keystone species. Students are learning about the relationship between environmental, energy, and human systems and study the impact of human activity on our world. The Garden Club has enhanced this concept by using the outdoors for learning via construction of an “Alligator Hole” made out of recycled materials.

To involve the entire school in creating a green culture, a Student Council representative attends all Green Team meetings and incorporates student input for green Initiatives. The goal is for every grade level to integrate environmental education into classroom instruction, teaching students how to make a difference in the world, while creating a healthier learning environment.



U.S. Department of Education
Green Ribbon Schools
2017-18 TECHNICAL REVIEW

Nominee	Gove Elementary, 1000 South East Avenue G, Belle Glade, Florida 33430; (561)993- 8700	
Evaluation Issues	Approvable	Special Notes
Florida Department of Environment Protection: Checked all records available regarding environmental violations for this school. Reviewer Name and Title: <i>Jennifer Glass Davis, Business Planning Program Manager, South East District, Florida Department of Environmental Protection</i>	YES	Email received on 2/27/18 verifying this site has no known environmental issues at this time.
Florida Department of Health: Checked Radon Monitoring Records: Reviewer Name and Title: <i>Jorge Laguna, M.S. Environmental Manager, Radon Program Bureau of Epidemiology, Public Health Toxicology Section Division of Disease Control & Health Protection</i>	YES	Florida law requires schools to test for radon levels every five years. Radon test has been conducted and is verified as being in compliance.
Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services: Checked compliance with regulations related to National School Lunch Program Reviewer Name and Title: <i>Lisa Church, Supervisor of Implementation, NSLP, SSO, SMP, Division of Food, Nutrition and Wellness, Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services</i>	YES	Email received on 3/1/18 verifying compliance.
Florida Department of Education: Checked compliance with USDOE Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) Reviewer Name and Title: <i>Leanne Grillot, Program Specialist, Bureau of Exceptional Education & Student Services</i>	YES	Email received on 2/28/18 verifying no violations of IDEA.



Florida Green Ribbon Schools Application 2017 - 2018

School Information

Gove Elementary, 1000 South East Ave. G, Belle Glade, FL 33430

Principal Name: Kim Thomasson

Email: kim.thomasson@palmbeachschools.org

Phone Number: 561-993-8700

Twitter page: gove_elementary

Website: http://www.edline.net/pages/Gove_Elementary_School

Lead Applicant Name: Ellen Smith Email: Ellen.Smith@palmbeachschools.org

Phone Number: 561-993-8700

District name: The School District of Palm Beach County

School Type: K-6 Public Elementary School; Rural

Total Enrolled: 724

Attendance Rate: 95%

Percent of students receiving Free or Reduced Price Lunch: 98%

Green School Initiatives

List of school's participation in a local, state or national school programs or others which asks you to benchmark progress in some fashion.

- Pine Jog Green School Recognition Program
- Commit 2B Fit annual award program
- Alliance for a Healthier Generation Schools Program
- Let's Move! Active School Program
- Fuel Up Play 60 Touchdown Program
- Palm Beach County School District Wellness Champion program
- State Award- Five Star School of Exemplary Community Involvement

List of staff or student body awards for facilities, health or environment.

Facilities:

- Silver LEED Award
- Asthma "Good Air" Friendly School

Health:

- USDA HealthierUS School Challenge Bronze Level 2015-19
- Fuel Up Play 60 Touchdown Award 2014-17
- Commit 2B Fit School Award 2016

- 2014 Outstanding School Team: Walk Now For Autism Speaks Recognition
- Jump Rope for Heart Gove Elementary 1997-2017
- National Healthier Generation Bronze Award 2015-17
- Let's Move! Active Schools National Bronze Award 2016
- Wellness Champion of Palm Beach School District Recognition 2014-6
- Safe Routes Grant for Glades Wellness Walk to School Non-Infrastructure Promotion 2013
- Sunshine State School Public Relations Association (SUNSPRA) Award winner for Community Wellness Program 2010
- Youth Service Childhood Obesity Grants 2008-10
- Florida Prevention Leadership Award 2007
- Feature story for Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Success Story "Putting Unity Back in Community" 2007
- Belle Glades Chamber of Commerce "Citizen of the Year" 2007
- Volunteer of the Year for Glades/Palm Beach County Health Department 2006-2007
- Palm Beach County School Board's Special Recognition Award for Wellness 2005
- USA Today Teacher Team of the Year 2004-2005
- American Heart Association Volunteer of the Year 2005
- American Heart Walk Coordinator 2000-2005
- Community Festival Leader for Black Gold Walk Run 2000-2004

Environment:

- Green School Of Quality 2016-2017 Green Team: Principal Kim Thomasson, Tammy Cano, Bridget Lutz, Shelly Miller, Ellen Smith, Gayle Zavala
- Student Green School Finalist Ariel Johnson 2016-2017
- Education Foundation Go Teach Grant – Lead Teacher: Gayle Zavala – Butterfly Garden Classroom 2016-2017
- Education Foundation Go Teach Grant – Lead Teachers: Ellen Smith & Gayle Zavala – Building A Better Person & Planet Through S.T.E.A.M.
- Florida Wildflower Foundation Seedlings For Schools Grant 2017-2018

Pillar I: Reduced Environmental Impact and Costs

Energy

Gove Elementary has experienced a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. Data is based on comparisons for school years 2012-2013 and 2015-2016. This is the time frame for the transition from the old school facility to the new building at 80%. Gove still had 20% of the school population housed at the old school facility buildings. The buildings are also still being used for Boys and Girls Club for approximately 200 students.

Initial GHG emissions rate (MT eCO₂/person): 971 metric tons

Final GHG emissions rate (MT eCO₂/person): 842 metric tons

Percentage reduction: 13%

Documentation for the 13% reduction is based on Palm Beach District utility records retrieval. The new school facility was built as a Silver LEED certified school and staff are striving to understand and employ all the green features to achieve the greatest efficiencies in reducing emission rates.

Gove Elementary has reduced its total non-transportation energy use from an initial baseline.

Documentation is based on Palm Beach District utility records retrieval.

Time period measured 08/2013-07/2014 with 08/2015-07/2016

Initial energy usage (kBtu/student/year): 6691.2097425639kBtu divide by approx. 55,544 square feet equals 0.12046683246

Current energy usage (kBtu/student/year): 3860.3605580556kBtu divided by 121,000 square feet equals 0.03190380626

Percentage reduction: 74%

Gove's Silver LEED certification building includes energy efficient features that are in automatic application at the facility. Gove Elementary has solar panels and uses district on-off monitors to conserve energy when the building is unoccupied and also employs solar renewable energy through low e-glazing and day lighting panels throughout the building and light shelves to bounce light farther into building space.

Facilities and Construction

Gove Elementary was constructed in 2011-2013, 100% of the building area meets green building standards and is a LEED Silver Certified Green School. Gove Elementary school adopted the use of ice storage to drastically reduce energy consumption. Ice is made overnight and is then used during the peak demand day time hours to cool the buildings. Concrete paving and light colored roofing materials reduce heat absorption. Low e-glazing on the windows reduce energy costs, and the classrooms have occupancy sensors for the lights and air conditioning which turn off when the room is not occupied. Light colored roofing materials and reflective pavement coatings were used to reduce the heat island effect.

Water and Grounds

Gove Elementary School has experienced a reduction in water usage as documented through utility bills.

Time period measured: 08/2013-07/2014 with 08/2015-07/2016

Initial water use (gallons per occupant): 1,961,000

Current water use (gallons per occupant): 841,000

Percentage reduction in water use (initial – current)/initial): 57%

The school was built so that all bathrooms conserve water through low flow toilets, waterless urinals and flow restriction faucets. 100% of landscaping consist of native species which require less watering and retention ponds hold rainwater runoff to minimize the impact to surrounding areas. Gove Elementary also captures water in cisterns to be used for watering crops on the east side of the school.

Waste and Recycling

Gove Elementary school is working toward increasing the amount of solid waste diverted from the landfill. Prior to the new school being built, there was not a recycling program in place thus initial garbage collection data is unavailable. Current garbage collection is about 160 cubic yards per month. The school's yearly rate is increasing as a result of implementing several initiatives. Currently, Gove recycles about 6 cubic yards of cardboard weekly and 285 gallons of both paper and plastics per week.

Teachers are working with students daily; weekly Recycle Buddies gather the recycling bins from all the common areas to take them outside to the collection area to be picked up. After the students amass the bins, they weigh them to calculate baseline data to gauge improvement in future recycling efforts.

100% of cleaning products used at Gove Elementary are green certified and 30% of the paper used is fiber from forests certified. The school district no longer provides ink for individual teacher printers which encourages them to use the copy machines in the teacher work areas so that the ink is properly disposed. Batteries from appliances and computers are shipped off to proper facilities for disposal.

Alternative Transportation

Gove Elementary has steadily been working toward a reduction in motor vehicle transportation. Approximately 20% more students bike or walk to school as a result of better sidewalks and walking paths and a secure bike storage area at the new facility. A leadership team collects data from morning and afternoon transportation duties. The new procedure includes a card system with corresponding numbers to link students who pool together in order to decrease wait and idle time. Carpooling is encourage and has increased to include 62 students.

Gove Elementary implemented the following measures:

- Designated carpool parking stalls. At Gove Elementary approximately 25% of the staff carpool. Designated spots allow these drivers to park on the front row closest to the building.
- Vehicle loading/unloading areas at Gove Elementary are at least 25 feet from buildings, air intakes, doors and windows. Vehicle loading and unloading stops are monitored by school personnel. Students are dropped off and picked up at least 100 feet from doorways.
- After a decade of "Walk to School" initiatives including students presenting to City Commissioners about the routes without sidewalks, the city obtained a grant to build Avenue E sidewalks on both sides of the street with clearly marked intersections. Gove Elementary now has safe sidewalk routes from neighborhoods at least one-half mile on both the east and west sides of the school.
- Secure storage is provided to encourage human-powered modes of transportation to and from school. Gove's new facility has secure bike racks for student and adult use.

Pillar II: Improve the Health and Wellness of Students and Staff

Environmental Health

Gove Elementary has instituted several ecosystem-based strategies to reduce pesticide use including the purchase and use of ladybugs and marigolds which are a safe and inexpensive solution keeping garden pests away. They kill aphids, chinch bugs, asparagus beetle larvae, alfalfa weevils, bean thrips, grape root worm, Colorado potato beetles larvae, spider mites, whiteflies, mealybugs, among other insects. Gove Elementary uses environmental friendly repellants such as a vinegar solution and borax and planted natural repellants such as rue and marigolds. Gove is also developing a partnership with the University of Florida Agriculture Extension to provide resources, annual mentoring through interns and technical assistance from a research professor to help build owl houses which provides a low-cost, sustainable pest control measure.

The head of Gove's custodial staff has 27 years of experience in maintaining school district buildings. Gove custodial staff conduct monthly checks for mold and moisture and have shown zero issues to date. Checking and maintaining the building's ventilation system to ensure they are clean and operating properly is conducted as part of the district monthly inspections. The Head Custodial and staff are educated monthly on the needs and goals to improve the schools green status. One of the issues addressed at these meetings was the constant challenge to keep the stairwell doors closed. As a result of this team approach, Student Council pitched in to make signs for each door and student door-closers were assigned at each stairwell. The Positive Behavior Intervention Support (PBIS) team provides motivation, incentives and materials to encourage staff and students to recycle plus conserve water and energy. PBIS and Green Team contributed posters to support the stairwell door shutting initiative and provide a "Gove Going Green Cheer" to use in pep rallies to keep the awareness and visibility high.

Gove Elementary employs a number of practices to minimize exposure to hazardous contaminants including the identification and removal of any sources of elemental mercury and prohibiting its purchase and use in the school; using all new appliances and no fuel burning appliances; requiring custodians to use milder cleaning solutions; adhering to the Asbestos Act and having an asbestos management plan and chemical management program in place.

Gove Elementary has been recognized as an asthma-friendly school. During times of crop burning, physical education classes are held indoors and the school nurse trains everyone that cares for children with asthma on a regular basis. Gove also follows very strict guidelines in regards to fragrances being used in the classroom that could trigger an asthma attack.

In line with the Silver LEED certification, all tobacco use is prohibited within 25 feet of the school entrance. Gove enforces a policy that prohibits smoking by students, staff and visitors on all school-owned property and at school-sponsored events.

Gove Elementary has been blessed with a new school, which is rated as a Silver LEED school. This gives Gove the advantage of being a state of the art campus with the newest of strategies to provide the best of acoustics, automatic lighting and conservation plus beautiful landscaping and humidity control. Low e-glazing on the windows reduce energy costs, and the classrooms have occupancy sensors for the lights and air conditioning which turn off when the room is not occupied. The school also maximizes day lighting for classrooms through the building's orientation and light shelves to bounce light farther into the space. The landscaping on campus consists of native species which require less watering. Retention ponds on site hold rainwater runoff in order to minimize impact to the surrounding areas. The Green

Team obtained a grant from Memory Tree to obtain more trees to provide shade and for beautification on campus.

Culture and Climate: Student and Staff Wellness

The Coordinated School Health (CSH)/Whole School, Whole Community, Whole Child (WSCC) model has been the guideline for Gove. Two school members have attended trainings and meetings related to CSH/WSCC on a state level since 2004 to receive training and resources. Implementation strategies have been deployed to develop a school site team and to solicit resources and assistance from the state, community and district. The Wellness Champion is in charge of making sure all employees on site are familiar with and have access to District offered wellness programs.

Gove Elementary is fortunate to have a Wellness Team that consists of the Wellness Champion, several teachers, student council member, school nurse and members of leadership. The team facilitates multiple health related services, such as morning yoga once a week, healthy eating forums and hosts Wellness Breakfasts which also serve as fundraisers for different causes important to the faculty. The team also collaborates with district personnel to receive additional help with services such as signing up for biometrics screenings or other benefits related programs offered through the district. The Wellness Champion hosts a student-centric running club, and another member of the committee hosts a student focused fitness club. Wellness and Green Teams generate an email blast to all staff weekly, and monthly updates are provided at faculty, PTO and SAC meetings.

Team led successes include:

- Fuel Up to Play 60 Touchdown awards for healthy lifestyles and community involvement. Gove projects including the healthy eating cafeteria morning program, Walk to School, Field Day, Fun Runs and many local community projects which led to achieving a touchdown.
- Providing staff, students, and families information on nutrition education and programs. Gove has been a finalist in Fuel-Up Cooking contests and recently added parent cooking classes funded by the Schools of Hope grant. The School District of Palm Beach County has been at the forefront in Food Service to provide the best of the choices for “Farm to Table” and only allows the best “Green choices”.
- Participating as a Commit 2B Fit Model School utilizing Choosing Healthy Habit Student Planners. At least 50 percent of Gove students' annual physical education takes place outdoors and they annually participate in Jump Rope for Heart.
- Participation in the USDA's Healthier US School Challenge. District workshops assisted the team to outline an action plan with the Florida Department of Agriculture's USDA experts to become well rounded in all aspects of being a healthy school. Gove also participates in the Alliance for a Healthier Generation's Healthy School Program and after four years of perseverance and progress, achieved the Bronze certification. With the help of PTO and grants, Gove developed a plan to offer “Recess bags” per grade level containing classroom physical activities, GoNoodle training, and class sets of pedometers. Gove was featured as an Alliance success story for “Putting Unity in Community”.
- Gove participation in a Farm-to-School program to use local, fresh food. The Cafeteria manager sends out a monthly schedule for menus accenting the nutritional value of food choices. The Fruit and Vegetable program provide handouts for the daily produce to explain where they are grown and all nutritional facts.

- Gove creating and maintaining on-site food gardens. Gove’s STEAM Class, Garden Club and Gove Guardians of Wellness Club have worked diligently in the garden with Glades Central High School to make a pizza garden and herb garden. The produce from these ventures will be used to have a “Pizza Party” with all partnerships. The valuable partnership with Glades Central High School engages alumni to assist with the garden program as a way to give back to the community. All students have the opportunity to receive instructional time in a school garden.

Gove Elementary physical education teachers supply avenues to maintain fitness when students are not in physical education classes by devising an action plan and working collaboratively with teachers and administration. The action plan includes:

- Providing a GoNoodle presentation at a faculty meeting
- Implementing a pedometer program for classroom teachers to enhance movement and link to academics; also provide heart monitors.
- Design of the Physical Education/Listening daily 30 minute active instruction module with recreational options.
- Encouraging students and staff to participate in local fun runs to increase physical activity while supporting the community.
- Working closely with the Boys and Girls Club to provide equipment and activities.
- Leveraging a partnership with the Sporting Good Manufacturing Association to donate grant funding, hockey equipment and playground supplies for community programs.

Pillar III: Effective Environmental and Sustainability Education

Environmental and Sustainability Literacy

Gove Elementary school and The School District of Palm Beach County have numerous partnership agreements with education providers in the community that support environmental sustainability literacy. These organizations provide technical assistance, environmental education for students and professional development for teaching staff.

Gove Elementary staff have participated in the following professional development opportunities:

- Agriculture in the Classroom Workshop -University of Florida (2015-2016)
- Agriculture in the Classroom Workshop – University of Florida (2016-2017)
- Project Learning Tree – Pine Jog/FAU Environmental Century (2016-2017)
- Picture-Perfect Science and Beyond! K-5 Summer Institute Pine Jog/FAU Environmental Center (Summer 2017)
- Everglades Literacy Training (Summer 2017)
- Loggerhead Marine Life Center “Learn Green Goes Blue” (2017-2018)
- Learn Green STEM Open House Workshops @ South Florida Science Center (2017-2018)
- Learning about LILA: Loxahatchee's Living Laboratory (2017-2018)

Technical Assistance: University of Florida Research Center in Belle Glade, Florida partners with Gove Elementary to assist with school gardens and owl houses as natural pest prevention.

Gove Elementary has continually participated in both out of school and in-school student field trips. This includes:

- Out-of-school field experiences include: Lion Country Safari, SeaWorld, Miami Aquarium, Agriculture Safety Day, 6th Grade Ambassadors Discover Florida Week Long Trip
- In-school field experiences include: South Florida Science Center and Aquarium STEM night, Career Day (annual 2-day event) multiple guest speakers including environmental topics.

Gove Elementary school has an academic program that integrates environmental and sustainability concepts across the curriculum in multiple disciplines. In 2017-2018, Gove Elementary introduced S.T.E.A.M. (Science/Technology/Engineering/Art/Math) for all 724 students through the Fine Arts rotation. Students are assessed weekly using individual and group quizzes as well as project based assessments (i.e. drawing diagrams, using blocks and other construction materials to build specific habitats, group discussions). Topics include:

- Human Anatomy and Health (Biology)
- Plant study (Botany) including outdoor lessons in school gardens
- Florida Everglades & Ecology
- Water Cycle/ Oceans & Sea Turtles
- Weather and Astronomy
- Simple Robotics

A green schoolyard program (e.g., Florida Friendly Landscaping; Gardening, Schoolyard restoration program) is integrated in the curriculum. Through Gove Elementary S.T.E.A.M. classes, the school Butterfly Garden serves as the ideal setting to learn about a variety of topics and concepts across the curriculum including:

- Life cycle of butterfly/moth, wasps, birds

- Characteristics of a variety of butterflies, bees, dragonflies, millipedes, birds, spiders
- Parts of a plant and care of garden
- Measurement (i.e. estimation of cubic feet for mulch; size of insects and/or plants)
- Pollination
- Reproductive parts of a flower
- Solar power (solar powered bird bath fountain)
- Herbs - nutrition and medical uses
- Eco-dramatization of concepts related to Everglade study and Sea Turtle Study

The garden has also provided an excellent setting for teaching team work, empathy, respect, responsibility and building confidence and pride and is used by classroom teachers to reinforce multiple concepts across curriculum including literacy, science and math.

Gove Elementary students participate in both recycling stewardship and after-school clubs including:

- 5th grade Recycling Stewards – coordinate the collection of all school-wide paper/plastic recycling
- K-6th Grade – collection of recycled materials needed for class projects (i.e. empty water bottles, old CD discs, toilet paper rolls)
- Gove Garden Club – maintain butterfly garden and new vegetable gardens; participate in community service projects (i.e. creating planters from recycled coffee cans, marching in MLK parade to promote recycling).
- Gove Guardians of Green Club - partners with local High School Agricultural Class to work on new vegetable gardens.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics

Gove Elementary school uses sustainability and the environment as a context for learning science, technology, engineering and mathematical (STEM) thinking skills and content knowledge. In 2017-2018 Gove Elementary introduced S.T.E.A.M. 724 students through a Fine Arts rotation and includes the following topics and activities:

- Human Anatomy and Health - Study of human circulatory system. Students make links to benefits of good nutrition, regular exercise and avoidance of unhealthy habits.
- Plants: Includes outdoor lessons in school gardens and opportunities for “hands on” activities to observe circulation of plants. Students grow microgreens. Dissection of flowers allows learning about plant reproduction and pollinators.
- Florida Everglades & Ecology: Florida Everglades and the critical role water has played in changes of the natural environment. Students learn roles of keystone species such as alligators. Students are given opportunities to recreate the five habitats using construction materials. They also engage in water conservation and restoration activities.
- Water Cycle/ Oceans & Sea Turtle: water cycle with Nearpod Technology, hands on experiments, role playing as Junior Vets with turtle models, creating posters to promote awareness to protect our oceans and sea life.
- Weather and Astronomy: Students continue the study of the water cycle to gain knowledge on different clouds and various types of precipitation. Students also engage in hands-on learning about the sun and its use as an alternative energy source.
- In S.T.E.A.M. lessons, students work as partners or small groups to collaborate on challenges.

Gove Elementary school use sustainability and the environment as a context for learning green technologies and career pathways. S.T.E.A.M. classes, after-school Southeastern Consortium for Minorities in Engineering (SECME) and the Garden & Green Clubs expose Gove Elementary school students to community volunteers who are experts in environmental related careers including:

- Student Interns/Professors from University of Florida Research Lab
- High School Agricultural student and teacher partnerships to expand the gardens
- Local volunteers with expertise in butterflies and plants
- Career Day volunteers exposing students to local industries connected with environmental job opportunities
- SECME challenges students in creating STEM projects

Civic Knowledge and Skills

Gove Elementary has engages students in civic/community engagement projects integrating environment and sustainability topics. Students have been providing green and wellness related presentations at the City Commissioner meetings for the past decade to update the Commission on activities/initiatives and to gain support including:

- Walk to School Day – School-wide project for entire school and community supporting healthy living yearly since 2003.
- Jump Rope for Heart - Students gain support from community for sponsorship in Jump Rope event for American Heart Association.
- Autism Walk - Students, teachers and community members participate in walk-a-thon to bring awareness to Autism. Gove Elementary school has three classrooms for students with Autism and is the cluster site for the Glades area.
- Brain Gym Buddy Program - Intermediate students visit classes of students with Intellectual Disabilities and Autism to mentor them in Brain Gym activities to promote Healthy Living habits.
- Literacy and Math Night - Parents and students participate in hands-on activities. Topics include Everglades habitats, preventing erosion, plant and butterfly studies.
- Restoration of Gardens - Students participate in restoring new butterfly garden and reusing materials from old school site (stepping stones, cement benches, bird bath).
- Student Garden Club - Students reuse cans donated by school cafeteria to create plant containers.
- School-wide Campaign to collect recycled items from home (plastic bottles, CD discs, toilet rolls).
- Student Garden and Green Clubs participation in the MLK parade to promote Recycling.

Gove Elementary students' engage in meaningful outdoor learning experiences at every grade level through:

- Butterfly and lady bug releases for all grade levels.
- Gardens used by classes to teach science concepts including specific lessons stored in outdoor information station.
- S.T.E.A.M. classes (K-6) on campus field trips and nature hunts.
- Eco-dramatization to teach lessons related to food chain, keystone species (i.e. alligator holes), Everglades, Ocean animals and behaviors, Pollution, Erosion demonstration.
- Working in the vegetable garden to reinforce lessons on plants and pollination.

Gove Elementary uses outdoor learning to teach an array of subjects in contexts, engage the broader community and develop civic skills. Gove Elementary instructors co-teach S.T.E.A.M. and have carefully planned for the use of the outdoors for each unit of study and found ways to incorporate literacy, math, science and social skills.

- Human Anatomy – Study of the function of the Heart and Lungs included using stethoscopes to measure heart rate. Students were taken outdoors to test the hypothesis.
- Plants – Study of plants, flowers, trees and pollination included many days in the outdoors to actually plant microgreens and other plants; observe flowers and pollinators such as bees, butterflies, dragonflies, birds. Two large butterfly houses located in the garden allow for observation of butterfly cycle.
- Everglades and Ocean/Sea Turtles – The outdoors is the ideal location to carry out ECO-dramas to understand bodies of water, keystone species, effects of pollution on animals and humans.

The broader community, including parents and local businesses, have shown great support of Gove Elementary environmental programs. The School Advisory Committee has supported S.T.E.A.M. projects such as the TURTLES TO GO project. Partnerships with local high school agricultural classes and teachers have assisted students in building new vegetable garden projects. Partnerships with two local organizations, DUDA Farms and University of Florida Research Lab, resulted in donated plants, use of student interns and advice on garden projects.

Gove Elementary has partnerships in place to help achieve progress in the all three pillars including: Partnerships with community business members and local school have been a lifeline for Gove Elementary School allowing them to offer mentoring, modeling and motivation of students and staff.

- Our local Palm Beach Sherriff's Office, Palm Beach Fire Rescue, Lakeside Medical Center and members of our city municipalities are involved in numerous programs to ensure wellness, green initiatives and academic improvements for Gove Elementary.
- Pine Jog/FAU Environmental Center has served as our go-to partnership to receive professional development in Environmental lessons (STEM/STEAM/Everglades Literacy/Marine Life-Sea Turtles/Project Learning Tree). As a result of the training promoted by Pine Jog/FAU, we were able to create the foundation for our school wide S.T.E.A.M. classes. Recent diagnostic testing indicates students have shown improvement in literacy skills and knowledge of science concepts.
- Partnerships with local agricultural experts and businesses have helped guide successful gardening projects. In addition, the help of hard working volunteers who have assisted in maintaining and enhancing our gardens has had a great impact. Grant opportunities from businesses and private donations (Lowe's, Lost Tree, Education Foundation, DUDA Farms, Dr. Guzman donation) have provided essential funding to achieve our goals of providing environmental literacy and creating outdoor learning spaces for our students and the community.

Gove Elementary Pictures for Green Ribbon Schools Application

Pillar One: Environmental Impact

Principal, Kim Thomasson and Recycle Sponsor, Bridget Lutz, provide staff hands-on demonstrations to explain recycle procedures required in order to be designated Green Ambassadors for Gove Elementary.



Gove's Garden and Recycle Clubs recite their "Gove Going Green" cheer as they demonstrate support for recycling and beautification of the city in the MLK parade.



Pillar Two: Healthy School Environment

Over 700 Gove Elementary students participated in the “Walk to School” event in 2018 with staff, parents and community partners. This event has been implemented and fully supported since 2004!



Jump Rope for Heart with regional volunteers and local high school peer educators since 1987.



Pillar Three: Environmental Education and Sustainability

Outdoor learning labs to increase the quantity and quality of outdoor time: Recycled Gator Hole including information station with weather resistant lesson plans, Butterfly Houses for observation and documentation; students actively engage in the two locations on campus with pizza, vegetable and herb gardens.

