

# Connections Education Center of the Palm Beaches

## Strategic Plan Overview - 2021 - 2026

### Our Mission

Connections is a nonprofit organization that provides quality educational programs for students who are on the Autism Spectrum or have related disabilities.

### How We Meet Our Mission

Connections tailors our school program to meet the individual, social and educational needs of our students while meeting the challenges of organizational growth. Our various programs begin with PreK and enable students to grow and thrive in our programs through adulthood.

### Core Values

Provide an all-inclusive environment that enables individuals on the autism spectrum to have good quality lives connected to their family and community.

#### Core Competencies:

- ❖ Meet the families' needs for education, social service, and support.
- ❖ Health and Wellness Program enabling students and families to live a safe and healthy life.
- ❖ Lifespan approach to vocational and social skill development.
- ❖ Community engagement in leisure and vocational activities.

### Objectives & Strategies

#### **Objective 1: Fulfill the educational needs of the underserved autism community in Palm Beach County in a space conducive to meeting the goals for Connections Education.**

- 1.1 Explore the options and opportunities of the current location.
- 1.2 Explore alternative options from the current location including land that may allow for increased activities for Connection's students.

#### **Objective 2: Increase the vocational and recreational programs offered throughout the lifespan.**

- 2.1 Create new initiatives for the lifespan vocational and health and wellness programs that allow the students to gain work experience and increase their quality of life.
- 2.2 Form new community partnerships that enhance the students' vocational experiences.

#### **Objective 3: Provide the environment and the resources to nurture and support the intellectual, behavioral, cultural, and social/emotional development of students to achieve their Individualized Educational Plan Goals.**

- 3.1 Enrich the educational programming to enable students to progress to their highest level of excellence.

**Objective 4: Increase the health and wellness of Connections students by incorporating healthy living in all aspects of students' lives.**

4.1 Create and expand the health and wellness plan for all Connections students.

**Objective 5: Provide support to Connections families by meeting the educational and social needs of the family and students.**

5.1 Enhance parent trainings, assistance provided, and resources available to families.

5.2 Add to the opportunities for Connections students by increasing the afterschool program offerings.

**Objective 6: Hire and retain employees with expertise in necessary administrative or educational skills to meet the needs of students and families.**

6.1 Develop and implement ongoing staff training.

6.2 Increase consistency in day-to-day operations.

**Objective 7: Create a meaningful and fulfilling volunteer engagement program that enhances both the volunteer experience and Connections' educational programming.**

7.1 Develop a volunteer program that supports programmatic needs.

**Objective 8: Create effective and efficient business practices to maximize Connections' operations to promote growth and excellence.**

8.1 Build a business model and organizational structure based on the current and future needs of Connections.

**Objective 9: Raise financial resources to support business operations and programmatic needs.**

9.1 Diversify funding streams and activate development plan.

9.2 Increase the leadership capacity for the board of directors.