

EDUCATION ELEMENT GOALS, OBJECTIVES & POLICIES

GOAL 1.0 *Education plays a critical role in defining the quality of life in the community. The Village of Wellington desires that its citizens have life long learning opportunities and that its students attend schools which: have adequate facilities including classrooms, teachers, educational materials, technology and extracurricular activities to meet the needs of the student population, are located within the community, are safe and are a well-planned component of the community's physical and social infrastructure.*

Objective 1.1 The Village of Wellington shall continue to work with the School District, Wellington's advisory bodies and Wellington Council to eliminate overcrowded conditions in the schools that serve the Wellington area. This objective shall be made measurable by its implementing policies.

Policy 1.1.1 Wellington shall coordinate with the School District to select and acceptable future school sites that meet criteria for size, location, adequacy of infrastructure, access, and land use/zoning.

Policy 1.1.2 Wellington shall encourage creative responses that may include charter schools, magnet programs, prepayment of impact fees, and build/lease arrangements to providing educational facilities and programs by involving the private development industry to formulate options for funding, constructing, dedicating land, and managing the timing of development to further the goal of relieving school overcrowding.

Objective 1.2 The Village of Wellington has established an educational advisory committee, which is the primary means by which Wellington monitors all activities in public schools which serve Wellington residents. Monitoring shall include, but not be limited to mechanisms, changes including the availability of portable units or increasing/decreasing capacities at critically overcrowded schools.

Policy 1.2.1 Wellington Planning staff shall establish coordination mechanisms with the School District requesting notification on the specific issue of boundary changes for schools in Wellington's area of concern.

Policy 1.2.2 Wellington shall endeavor to coordinate with the School District on issues pertaining to racial balance and school facilities equity resulting from boundary changes.

Objective 1.3 The Village of Wellington shall maintain intergovernmental coordination mechanisms by working with the Wellington's advisory bodies, the Palm Beach County Intergovernmental Plan Amendment Review Committee (IPARC), and

the Palm Beach County Issues Forum. Wellington shall continue to explore additional means by which coordination can be enhanced.

Policy 1.3.1 Wellington shall maintain a relationship and representation on the Intergovernmental Plan Amendment Review Committee (IPARC), to remain updated on plan amendments and determine the effects of those amendments on educational facilities in Wellington.

Policy 1.3.2 Wellington shall support efforts to pursue approval of an extraordinary funding source, such as the 1 cent or ½ cent local sales tax to fund new school construction following consideration and approval by Wellington Council of the specific measure.

Objective 1.4 The development of new school sites and meeting the demand placed on schools from new development shall be coordinated between all agencies. Wellington shall continue to provide demographic data to IPARC to assist the School District school planning.

Policy 1.4.1 Wellington shall, establish mechanisms to review and coordinate with the School District on joint use facilities (educational and recreational) and the development of adequate infrastructure for new facility sites consistent with the Capital Improvements Element.

Policy 1.4.2 Wellington shall enter into an interlocal agreement with the School Board designating all public schools within Wellington as “Community Schools”.

Policy 1.4.3 Wellington has adopted Land Development Regulations that allow school sites in residential, commercial, industrial and institutional zoning districts subject to appropriate locational criteria and site development conditions.

Policy 1.4.4 Wellington shall work with the Palm Beach County School District to ensure that students are able to attend community schools wherever possible.

Policy 1.4.5 Wellington shall review any changes Palm Beach County makes regarding its site plan review process or criteria for PUD Civic site dedications as it relates to school siting issues, through the PDD Regulations for possible incorporation into Wellington’s Land Development Regulations.

Policy 1.4.6 Wellington shall inform the School District of any changes to its Comprehensive Plan or FLUM to coordinate planning for potential impacts on school planning.

Policy 1.4.7 Wellington shall review its permitting and development process to accelerate the provision of new schools to serve the Wellington area, as needed. If changes to these processes to expedite school facilities are necessary, then Wellington will pursue an interlocal agreement with the School District to effectuate such changes.

Policy 1.4.8 Wellington shall provide input into the development of uniformity in any land development criteria, pertaining to school siting, that might be implemented in addition to State Requirements for Educational Facilities (SREF), the School District's "building code", on a countywide basis.

Policy 1.4.9 Wellington shall review SREF when developing its own Land Development Regulations. The purpose of this will be to mitigate possible conflicts and ensure consistency with these development regulations for facilities that are owned or operated by the School District.

Policy 1.4.10 Wellington shall encourage developers to create and maintain housing diversity in new development proposals, in order to promote opportunities that will achieve cultural diversity in school age populations.

Objective 1.5 The Village of Wellington shall explore alternatives from Federal, State and private entities to enhance the educational experience in Wellington through partnerships, innovative funding sources such as grants, or pilot/trial programs that might be implemented through government entities, non-profit organizations or educational foundations. Wellington's advisory bodies and Wellington staff shall continue to explore partnerships and funding opportunities to improve educational opportunities in Wellington.

Policy 1.5.1 Wellington shall investigate options available to improve local education opportunities, including but not limited to, implementation of a Charter School program.

Policy 1.5.2 Wellington shall encourage Federal efforts such as a Head Start Program, implemented through Palm Beach County that could benefit the students in Wellington.

Policy 1.5.3 Wellington shall encourage working relationships between the individual educational facilities in Wellington to research and investigate obtaining grants for programs tailored to the individual facilities that could be environmentally, scientifically or culturally/artistically based.

Policy 1.5.4 Wellington shall monitor education legislation to remain aware of any opportunities, which may be created to enhance education opportunities within the community.

Objective 1.6 The Village of Wellington shall work to promote an approach to education that is coordinated with ancillary facilities such as: parks, libraries, recreational facilities, community centers and pathways to provide linkages throughout the community.

Policy 1.6.1 Wellington shall encourage the joint use of elementary and secondary educational and ancillary facilities. Examples of this type of coordination include co-location of educational facilities with: parks, recreational facilities, cultural facilities, library facilities, environmental pathways/walking trails, bikeways and community centers.

Policy 1.6.2 Safety concerns shall be addressed in the Wellington's Land Development Regulations to provide for safe access and connectivity to and between facilities.

Policy 1.6.3 Wellington shall seek representation from the School Advisory Committees, individual school employees, parents, School District staff, Wellington planning staff and Council members, and other locally concerned citizens or neighbors.

Policy 1.6.4 Wellington shall encourage the location and development of facilities such as university campuses, testing centers, private educational facilities, satellite educational programs, magnet facilities, charter schools, teaching universities, and technical centers that will enhance the educational opportunities in Wellington for children and adults alike. These public and private facilities shall be located in areas that meet the locational criteria and site development conditions adopted in the Land Development Regulations.

Policy 1.6.5 Wellington shall develop recreation programming which supports the goal of providing all of its citizens with life long learning opportunities through enhanced cultural enrichment programs.