

What is the AFF?



The Academic
Framework Forum is
an Okeechobee High
School student group

working to bring
student-run peer
learning to OHS.

What is peer learning?

Peer learning means a few different things—in AFF's work, it means peer tutoring, where students teach each other class and exam content, and peer mentoring, where students help each other with various subjects related to academics, such as college and career prep, choosing classes, and personal support. And this isn't new—it happens all the time, in students' friend groups and classrooms. There's many different ways to do it, including with students in the same classroom, with students of the same or of different academic levels, with the same or different types of learners, and many other ways. It's an endlessly diverse and evolving way of teaching, learning, and supporting, and we're working to bring it to Okeechobee.

Why is it useful?

It's common knowledge that high school students listen to their peers more than anyone else. And in fact, the research supports this—it also shows that peer learning is just as applicable to tutoring as it is to mentoring. Peer learning is also a way to fill gaps in student support, both academically and emotionally, that teachers, staff, and parents can't. In Okeechobee, a rural district with a Title I public high school, peer learning is especially useful. It draws on Okeechobee's strong community values. It fills gaps where there simply aren't enough resources in teachers, staff, or time to fill them.

It says, "our school refuses to be left behind" and puts action to words.

What does AFF do?

In the past two years, we've:

- Tutored students in classrooms,
- Run off-campus study groups and office hours,
- Translated for ESL/ELL students in the classroom,
- Helped with science lab setup, and
- Run practice AP and SAT exams

We believe that every student at OHS is capable of success. We believe that your friend group or family background shouldn't determine if you have support in school. We believe OHS students are a valuable and underutilized resource, and we use them.

What makes us different?

We're the first student-run peer learning program in American public education. This represents an incredible opportunity for providing extra academic and emotional support for all types of OHS students while giving those same students a voice in their own education. There have been many other successful programs that implement peer learning from teachers, staff, or administration, but we're the first in a U.S. public high school that was started and is run entirely by students. When a program is run by students, it helps them feel their work is useful, gives them a voice, and builds their soft skills. We're experimenting with applying these benefits to peer learning and doing the groundwork for expanding this beyond Okeechobee.

Who are we?



Hi, I'm Cristian Rios and I started the Academic Framework Forum in 2017 in my senior year at OHS. I'm working this summer with AFF to help us meet OHS's needs the best.

I'm a sophomore at MIT in Cambridge, MA, majoring in Urban Science and Planning + Computer Science. I grew up in Okeechobee and graduated from OHS + IRSC in 2018.



Hello, I'm Ayan Desai and I served as the AFF's Director for 2018-2019. I've been working with AFF since 2017 and I'm excited to see where it goes next!

I'm entering the University of Central Florida Honors College in Fall '19, majoring in Biochemistry. I grew up in Okeechobee and graduated from OHS + IRSC in 2019.

What's happening this summer?

This summer, Cristian Rios, AFF founder and 2018 OHS graduate, is working with the Okeechobee County School District to restructure AFF programs on a fellowship from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT); what this means is that we're making AFF into a group that can fundamentally change how OHS students learn and grow across the board. We're conducting surveys, interviews, and holding community meetings this summer, and we're ready to hear from you!



How do I get involved?

You can complete our survey [here](#).

You can sign up for an in-depth interview about your views about OHS student support [here](#).

You can sign up to sit on our Community Advisory Board, which will provide input into the AFF restructuring, [here](#).

More info: documents

- [**AFF Prospectus, 2017-2018: our founding document**](#)
- [**AFF OCSB end-of-year report, 2018: our first yearly report to the County School Board**](#)
- [**EAP Prospectus: outlines our approach to exam prep**](#)
- [**Plus Ultra poster: some more healthy marketing material**](#)

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