Executive Summary: Holland Elementary School

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LIBS 658: Knowledge Resources: Planning, Selecting, & Managing Collections

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September 23, 2021

Holland Elementary School is located in Southeast Virginia in the city of Virginia Beach, the most populous city in Virginia. Virginia Beach City Public Schools serves approximately 66,000 students ranging from pre-kindergarten to 12th grade. Holland Elementary School is one of 55 elementary schools in the Virginia Beach City Public School system.

When comparing Virginia Beach's data with Holland's, there are vast differences across the board. The demographics are nearly reversed, with about three-quarters of Virginia Beach's population identified as white, and about three-quarters of Holland's population identified as black, Hispanic, or Asian. Holland's poverty level is about ten times that of Virginia Beach's average poverty level, and Holland's free and reduced lunch eligibility percentage is over double the district's.

Despite the high poverty level of Holland Elementary School's population, data over the years shows that Holland's students consistently perform at or above the district average. This same data is consistent across Holland's subgroups of black students (the majority of the population), students with disabilities, and students who are economically disadvantaged.

I find it interesting that there is such an extreme gap between the district's poverty level and Holland's, yet Holland's assessment scores are equal to or higher than the districts. The conventional thought is that a high poverty level correlates with lower assessment scores. Additionally, Ranganathan's 2nd law states "every reader his or her book". I feel that further examination of the library's collection is needed to identify whether or not it supports the diversity of the school's population. Finally, Ranganathan's 5th law states that "the library is a growing organism". In order to ensure that Holland's library adheres to that law, I'd like to examine the resources that the library has added or changed in the past several years, and compare that to the resources that are available.