



Executive Summary

Whiddon-Rogers Education Center

Broward County School District

Mr. Wylie Howard
700 SW 26th Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315

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Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

The mission at Whiddon-Rogers Education Center (WREC) is to offer a safe and secure learning environment that affords alternative educational opportunities to a diverse student body and provides the necessary resources to become life-long learners. WREC provides a safe and secure environment...where students engage in academic and creative pursuits, utilizing cutting edge technology.....where highly effective educators provide real world experiences and curriculum through collaboration.....where students are partners in supporting the learning process. We promote a culture of learning where students, parents/guardians, stakeholders, and the community are able to engage and establish a partnership for students' educational achievement. Whiddon-Rogers Education Center strive to "Inspire, Empower, and Transform!" our students.

Whiddon-Rogers Education Center is located in an urban neighborhood in the shadows of the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport and the Port Everglades. We are a Broward County Public Alternative School and part of the Fort Lauderdale Innovation Zone serving over 1292 students who are overaged, short on credits, and/or low GPA from seventh grade through twelve grades, up to age 22. These students have not met their educational goals in a traditional high school setting. The Middle School Academy Program provides students in the seventh grade with the opportunity to recover credits and be promoted. Students in the eighth grade have the opportunity to recover eighth grade as they earned high school credits. We also serve a population of 508 adults who benefit from the educational services of GED, ESOL, and a population of 171 Adult High School students (age 18 to 22). The Adult and Adult High School programs are Whiddon-Rogers Education Center's commitment to providing educational services to the inmate population in the four Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Jails. At these facilities we provide service to the juveniles in the main jail, high school students, and adults in the other three BSO Jails.

The challenge we face at Whiddon-Rogers Education Center, is that we are not a school with boundaries, which limits the opportunity to provide students with additional school engagements such as: after school activities, tutoring services, Saturday school tutoring, etc., which helps to enhance the student's achievement as a whole. Whiddon-Rogers Education Center utilizes authentic instructional methods and strategies to assure positive outcomes and continually serve to help students graduate from high school. Students have the option of graduating from their home school.

Mr. Wylie L. Howard, our newly appointed Principal, with years of experience in Broward County Public Schools, states: "My most significant goal is to create and maintain a safe and results-focused learning environment." Through an effective leadership team and a collaborative environment this goal is accomplished through a sound, competency-based model, which continually strives to meet the needs of our students from an academic and socio-emotional perspective.

School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

Mission: Our mission at Whiddon-Rogers Education Center is to offer a safe and secure learning environment which affords alternative educational opportunities to a diverse student body and provide the necessary resources to become life-long learners.

Goal: Here at Whiddon-Rogers Education Center our goal is to Inspire, Empower, and Transform.

High School Program Goal: Our primary focus is to assist the student in overcoming the barriers to student achievement and any other limitations previously experienced. The curriculum is developed to foster student motivation and successful achievement of the skills and competencies needed to recover credits and grade point average (GPA). Our educational goal is to assist each student in learning the skills and competencies that will lead to grade level promotion and the completion of graduation requirements.

High School Offerings:

- A variety of graduation options
- Online recovery programs (i.e. APEX)
- Smaller class size
- Modified curriculum
- Students learn at their own pace
- Credits issued at the students' own pace
- Graduation requirements are met at the students pace
- Shared-Time student enrollment
- On-The-Job Training (OJT) Program
- Career Technical Education (CTE) Program
- Fine Arts Program
- Vocational/Technical Training
- Elective coursework
- Male/Female Mentoring Programs
- Student clubs and activities
- Career and college fair/field trips

Middle School Academy (MSA) Goal: Our primary goal is to assist each student in learning the skills and competencies that will lead to grade level promotion and the completion of all graduation requirements. The MSA program emphasizes remediation, course recovery, and performance based instruction. This is achieved through the team teaching approach. The instructional focus in each class is aligned with district and state standards.

Middle School Academy (MSA) Program Offerings:

- Course recovery for students ages fifteen and older (in grades 7 or 8)
- Opportunity to obtain high school credits
- "School within a school" model providing a small learning community

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- Team of "highly qualified" administrators, teachers, behavior specialists and family counselors
- General academic courses (Math, Language Arts, Science, Reading, and Social Studies)
- Electives include: Physical Education, Business & Computers, and Fine Arts (Music & Art)
- Online credit completion options

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

Over the past three years Whiddon-Rogers Education Center (WREC) has continued to build on our accomplishments and is striving to maintain and exceed them.

They include:

- Retain highly qualified teachers - 40 with Bachelor's Degrees; 35 with Master's Degrees; 5 with Specialist's Degrees and 2 with Doctorates
- Increase in the number of students graduating with standard high school diplomas from Whiddon-Rogers and also assisting students to return to their home schools to graduate with their Cohort
- Increase in the number of adult students in the 4 BSO Jails obtaining their GEDs Diplomas:
 - 2013: 95 students/inmates took the GED; 68 passed
 - 2014: 19 students/inmates took the GED; 17 passed
 - 2015: 35 students/inmates took the GED; 27 passed

(The decrease in the number of students during the 2014 and 2015 school year was due to the state requiring inmates to pay for their education.)

- LETF Award Grant Recipient - provides funding for education for the students/inmates in 3 BSO Jails in Pompano Beach
- Significant number of students taking and passing the 2015/2016 PERT (scores are used as a replacement for the Algebra 1 EOC, a graduation requirement)
 - November 2015: 167 seniors took the PERT; 48 passed
 - February 2016: 130 seniors took the PERT; 58 passed
- 2015 School-Related District Employee of the Year
- In 2015, a WREC math teacher was inducted into the National Society of Collegiate Scholars for his work in Urban Design/Planning at FAU
- In 2015, 10 students were invited by the Close-Up Program to visit the three state of Florida universities in Tallahassee, as well as to observe the inner workings of the Florida state government.
- In 2013 a science teacher was awarded "2013 Pollo Tropical Teacher of the Year."

Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

Whiddon-Rogers Education Center offers a variety of clubs, activities, and programs for its students. Although we are a non-traditional school, we provide rich social/extra-curricular experiences for our students throughout the school day hours.

Mentoring services include:

- Target Graduation
- Women of Elegance:
 - *Big Sisters (9th-12th grade)
 - *Little Sisters (7th-8th grade)
- Women of Tomorrow Mentoring & Scholarship Program (9th-12th grade)
- National CARES Mentor Program
- Urban League Mentor Program
- Mentoring Youth Forward (MYF)
- Boys to Men

Clubs include:

- Student Government Association (SGA)
- Just Say No!
- Gay-Straight Alliance (GSA)
- Crime Watch Committee
- Criminal Justice Program
- Basketball Team
- Pep Squad

Programs that enhance school culture and build staff/student morale include:

- Kids of Character Awards
- Staff Character Awards
- Attendance Awards
- Honor Roll Ceremony
- Community Recognition Programs
- Staff/Student Superlatives
- Cultural Awareness Programs & Activities