



Executive Summary

Seagull Alternative High School

Broward County School District

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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.

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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?

Seagull Alternative High School is a center school located in Fort Lauderdale, on the same campus as Whiddon Rogers Education Center. Seagull was originally intended as a school for parenting and pregnant teenage girls, and as a result we are one of very few schools that have a licensed day care on campus where students can bring their children. Our current enrollment is 330 students in grades 6-12, 80 students in our Early Childhood program and 75 adults in our Adult with Ability program. In addition to our parent teen program, we also service students, females as well as males, who are in need of course recovery. In the last 3-4 years the Hospital Homebound program, which had been housed at Seagull for many years, was moved to the Arthur Ashe campus. Seagull is now the home of three new programs; Adults with Abilities (AWA), Painting Apprenticeship Program, and OIC-Youth Build.

The Early Childhood Development Center is a licensed center. Children may enter the program as early as two weeks and graduate at to five years. Staff and students may enroll they children in the program. At a very early age the kids are exposed to a well-designed academic curriculum that fosters an early start to formal education.

The students enrolled at Seagull may enter one of three programs. The first program involves direct teaching where the teacher imparts the content of the curriculum with creative pedagogies. The second program involves a blended curriculum driven by an online computer based program. In the second program the teacher facilitates the learning process and complimenting with continuous intervention, remediation and alternative assessment. The third program involves the Adult with Disabilities (AWA). This program is designed to address the unique needs of adults with intellectual disabilities. The AWA program is a quality of life, life skills and workforce program.

At Seagull the students are supported by a wide array of support personnel, program and community partnerships. The students are supported by a guidance counselor, a social worker, a family counselor, two ESE specialists, an ESE support teacher, an ESOL support teacher, a reading coach, a math coach, a writing coach, four security specialist, a basket ball coach, a soccer coach, a football coach, instructional staff and a support staff. The staff at Seagull provides a personalize approach to the student education and overall success. There educational experience is complemented with a childbirth program and sex education. Both program teach the students responsible adult sexual behavior. Seagull also boasts a rich community support involving several community partners. These partners include Rozalyn Hester Paschal, M.D.; Galen OB/GYN Group/Barrington Murray M.D.; Broward Healthy Start Colition, Inc.; OIC of Broward County Inc.; Healthy Mother, Healthy Babies of Broward; Women, Infants and Children Program (WIC); Proietto Painting, Inc.; Broward County Sheriff's Department; My Safe Harbor; Ft. Lauderdale Police Department. The partners provide services that include but not limited to mentoring, guidance and financial support.

One of the unique challenges that we face is the lack of parental involvement and vocational training for our students. Seagull students are bussed in to the area, and so our ties to the community are not strong, and parent involvement is lax at best, most likely due to the fact that that many of our students are above the average age of graduation and/or independent.

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.

The mission of Seagull Alternative High School is to provide students with a safe environment where they can demonstrate academic, social, and emotional improvement. We believe that the student who attends Seagull Alternative requires love, compassion, encouragement, dependability, second chances, and routine. We strive to be attentive to each individual as a whole child, and work to impart self-confidence, intrinsic and extrinsic motivation, and to promote a feeling of community that will lead to improvement in all other areas of the students' lives. Our goal is to provide society with students who are self-sufficient, goal-oriented, consistent individuals with the necessary basic academic skills.

The administration, teachers and support staff are committed to the schools purpose. The school offers a wide range of support services to provide a framework for social and emotional growth. These support services include a mentor program, family counseling, social services, childcare, childbirth classes, and extramural activities (sporting events, field trips). The school also provides academic support to all students. At least 90% of the student enrolled at Seagull experience academic challenges. The academic curriculum and pedagogy are specifically designed to personalize the students' experience. We hope that this personalize approach will provide a fulfilling experience for the student that will encourage academic success. The curriculum design includes cross-curricular integration, differentiation and a blended approach infused with technology support. The instructional staff compliments this curriculum design with innovation pedagogy that encompass academic games, academic field trips, peer tutoring, interactive lessons, online activities and much more.

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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 we have continually increased our enrollment and services for students. In the next three years we strive to graduate more students with standard high school diplomas and industry trade certifications. We will need to seek out funding that will allow us to offer more industry trade certification programs and access to dual enrollment programs for our best and brightest.

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Additional Information

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

Seagull Alternative High is a small school with a big heart. We endeavor to give our students experiences that are as close to traditional school as possible, while keeping the individual student as our central focus. The student's and teachers at Seagull, and other centers like it, have the most need, but have the most limited resources. If our goal as a society is to produce the next generation of responsible adults, we are failing the demographic that Seagull serves miserably by not differentiating their needs in life, as we are taught to differentiate their needs in instruction.

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