



Executive Summary

Nova Middle School

Broward County Public Schools

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Description of the School.....	2
School's Purpose.....	3
Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement.....	4
Additional Information	5

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?

Nova Middle School (NMS) has a total of 1,260 students serving all of Broward County. The school is housed on the Nova Zone campus in Davie, Florida. Nova Blanche Foreman Elementary, Nova Eisenhower Elementary, and Nova High are also located on this campus. NMS is a Title I School with 64% of students participating in the National School Lunch Program. Based on current enrollment, the student population consists of:

White - 162

Black - 623

Pacific Islander - 2

Indian - 33

Asian - 64

Multiracial - 63

Hispanic - 283

The NMS faculty consists of 78 people including 34 with higher education degrees and 75 who are highly qualified. Nova Middle is one of the few schools in Broward County whose student population is not restricted to specific geographical boundaries; our students come from all four corners of the county. This can make traditional parental involvement (parents coming into the school) very challenging. The NMS faculty must constantly revamp their strategies to strengthen the home-school connection. Many NMS teachers use a variety of media to communicate with parents and students. Examples include Remind, EdModo, Google Docs, and Pinnacle. Over the past three years, NMS has experienced several changes in administration and faculty due to retirements and promotions. In addition, curriculum is now based off of the Florida Standards and students are assessed annually using the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA). In order to accommodate these changes, the master schedule now reflects common planning for each department, allowing teachers time to meet in their Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and share best practices.

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 the Nova schools is to train pre-service and experienced educators to teach our culturally diverse student population to be literate, productive citizens, using a seamless K-12 curriculum, in collaboration with parents, the community, and partners in higher education.

In order to fulfill this mission with fidelity, the NMS faculty and staff work in conjunction with the Nova Zone schools, NMS families, as well as the local colleges and universities to ensure that all students successfully matriculate through the zone. At the middle school level, we strive to guarantee that all 8th grade students are ready for high school (as defined in the District strategic plan) by the time they enter 9th grade. NMS offers both high school level courses to accelerate students (Algebra, Geometry, Biology, Spanish I, Spanish II, Debate, Law Studies, Introduction to IT, Campus CEO, and Creative Writing) as well as remediation courses (Project Based Mathematics, Intensive Reading, Literature, and Marine Science) to maximize student achievement. NMS works closely with Nova High to continuously reassess the alignment of our programs. NMS math teachers of high school level classes (Algebra and Geometry) meet regularly with Nova High math teachers in a professional learning community to discuss best practices. In addition Nova Middle and Nova High schedulers meet consistently to align zone programs. For example, the Nova High Engineering program is above capacity so Nova Middle will begin offering the first class in the program during the 2016-2017 school year.

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, NMS has focused on continuously improving programming to prepare students to graduate College and Career Ready. NMS now offers 11 high school level classes geared towards a variety of student interests. In addition, the Nova Middle Law program is now held in a state of the art mock courtroom that was built thanks to the collaboration of the NMS faculty, NMS PTSA, and several community partners. The CEO course has been built up over the past three years and is now sponsored by Verizon. Participating students are afforded an opportunity to create their own business and some have actually sold their business for profit at the end of the course. This unique course is now being duplicated around the district.

Looking forward, NMS will continue to reassess programming to maximize student achievement. Recent collaboration between NMS and Nova High will lead to better alignment of the STEM program for the 2016 - 2017 school year. The Language Arts department is expanding its focus on writing and will offer a two-year Creative Writing program to 7th and 8th grade students. During the 2016-2017 school year, the Debate program will grow to include Speech to 7th grade students. In addition, NMS faculty is working tirelessly to develop a more in depth understanding of the Florida Standards through school based Professional Learning Communities as well as district trainings. Finally, NMS is revamping Rtl procedures to better identify and monitor students utilizing BASIS 3.0.

Additional Information

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

Nova Middle School proudly serves every municipality in Broward County, Florida. Unlike traditional magnet schools, there is no academic criterion for admission into NMS; therefore, our students represent the full gamut of academic success as well as academic need. We pride ourselves in holding every student to the highest of expectations and constantly raising the bar. Likewise, the NMS faculty and staff strive to continuously improve best practices. Several teachers attend content specific national conferences every year through the TDIF grant as well as Title I funds. Moving forward, our goal is to continue to be at the forefront of educational innovation.