



## **Executive Summary**

**Sawgrass Springs Middle 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.

## **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?**

Sawgrass Springs Middle School is located in Coral Springs, Florida. Coral Springs is located in the west corner of Broward County approximately 20 miles northwest of Fort Lauderdale. The population of the city is close to 121,000 people, and the demographics of the city are 51% white, 18% black, 23% Hispanic, and 8% other.

Sawgrass Springs Middle School opened in 1996. The school has an administrative team that consists of the principal, three assistant principals, three guidance counselors, ESE Specialist and a Literacy Coach.

Our instructional staff consists of 65 certified teachers who are highly qualified by state's definition. Of the 65 teachers, all of them hold a bachelor's degree and 46% possess advanced degrees. The support staff includes an office manager, registrar, guidance data specialist, ESE secretary, front desk secretary, data entry clerk, 4 paraprofessionals, and 6 custodians.

Currently, the total enrollment is 1172 students in grades 6-8. Our student population is made up of 38% White, 28% Black, 27% Hispanic and 7% other. Approximately 52% of Sawgrass Springs Middle School students qualify for free or reduced meals. Our exceptional education population is 137 and we have 2 support facilitators and an ESE Specialist.

Sawgrass Springs Middle School who has been a Title 1 school with nearly 52% of our students on free and reduced lunch. The number of students who qualify for free and reduced lunch has risen over the last three years. We have also seen growth in our ESOL population. Last year we added another ESOL class to accommodate our growing ESOL numbers.

## **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 Sawgrass Springs Middle School faculty and staff is dedicated to providing an innovative educational program in which all students will be actively engaged in learning, through an integrated environmental curriculum, incorporating the most recent technology, in a clean, safe, environment where students will experience academic and personal growth.

## **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.**

Sawgrass Springs Middle School is an "A" rated school based on the 2014 and 2015, and in 2014, SSMS was a Golden School Award recipient for exemplary school volunteer programs. It is difficult to measure the academic learning gains of students over the last 3 years because standardized testing changes from the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) to the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) in 2014. From 2012-2014 our reading learning gains have increased 3%, math learning gains have increased 5%, science proficiency has increased by 7%, and our writing proficiency has increased by 11%.

We are using computer based programs that can generate questions based on the new standards and vary the level of cognitive complexity. These programs emulate technology enhanced items that are now a part of the Florida Assessment Test and it can track each student on their progress on each standard.

Over the next three years, we will continue to focus on preparing our students to be college and career ready.

## **Additional Information**

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

We work very closely with our feeder elementary schools and high school to transition students smoothly between schools.

We have aligned an academic program at SSMS called the Scholar Program that feeds into our feeder high school's program called AP Capstone. This program is geared towards high achieving students.

In addition to the Scholar Program, SSMS allows students who are proficient in reading and math to take high school credit classes in 7th and 8th grade. We currently offer 8 high school elective classes and 4 classes aligned to programs offered at the high school.