



## Executive Summary Template School Accreditation

### 2018 - 2019

The Executive Summary (ES) provides the school an opportunity to describe in narrative form its vision as well as strengths and challenges within the context of continuous improvement. Use this template to complete the responses to the various questions below. The responses should be brief, descriptive, and appropriate for the specific section. Transfer completed narratives into the corresponding sections of the Executive Summary found online in ASSIST.

### 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?

In August 2009, Discovery Elementary School opened its doors to 786 students from Lauderhill, Sunrise, and Tamarac, Florida. Discovery Elementary is located in a highly diverse neighborhood on the corner of Pine Island Road and Commercial Boulevard in the City of Sunrise, Florida. The City of Sunrise is located in the central-western part of Broward County and is home to 11 public schools. The City of Sunrise has a total population of 84,439, and is ranked as the ninth-largest city in Broward County. In 2010, the city had a minority-majority population of 37% White Non-Hispanic, 31% Black Non-Hispanic, including African American, and 25% Hispanic. The City of Sunrise plays host to numerous events that attract and delight residents of all ages. The City of Sunrise thrives on the importance of family, friends, and a cohesive community. The City of Sunrise also offers a wide range of community programs that are geared towards our youth. In 2015, the city was voted, Chess City of the Year by the US Chess Federation.

During the inaugural year, Discovery Elementary received an "A" rating designated by the State of Florida's grading system for accountability. This year we will Celebrate 10 Years of Making Discovery Elementary "A" Great Place to Be! Currently, we serve approximately 975 students in grades Pre-K through fifth grade with demographics consisting of 60% African American, 17% Hispanic, 15% White, 4% Multi-Racial, and 4% Asian. Discovery Elementary is a Title 1 School where 68% of the students receive free or reduced lunch, and 12% of students are English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). Our staff includes 90 members with demographics consisting of 51% African American, 33% White, 13% Hispanic, and 3% Other.

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 Discovery Elementary is to provide a safe and nurturing environment that enhances learning and ensures the highest quality of education. At Discovery Elementary, we believe the education of a child is the responsibility of the student, the school, the home, and the community.

- We believe all students will rise to the level of expectations of the classroom and school.
- We believe in recognizing individual differences and diverse capabilities and meeting their needs accordingly.
- We believe curriculum and instruction based on research enhances student achievement.
- We believe in providing a safe and nurturing environment.
- We believe a student's self-esteem is enhanced by positive relationships and mutual respect among students, faculty, staff, parents, and community.
- We believe frequent monitoring ensures continuous quality improvement.
- We will prepare all students for the knowledge-based, technologically rich and culturally diverse 21<sup>st</sup> Century.
- All children have a right to an education that allows them to develop their maximum academic, social, and emotional potential.

The vision of Discovery Elementary is to provide a quality education through state of the art technology. Technology integration serves as the cornerstone of core instruction for all students. We value the importance of extracurricular enrichment for all students; therefore, Discovery Elementary offers a variety of Extended Learning Opportunities (ELOP), such as Computer Animation, Music, Drama, Art, Sports, Cheerleading, Science Club, and Actor's Playhouse. All classrooms at Discovery Elementary are digital, which includes a promethean board, surround sound system, microphones, LCD Projector, ELMO, iPads, and student laptops. A globally competitive education is offered through the delivery of the Florida State Standards Curriculum, and opportunities to benchmark against other Socio-Economic Status (SES) Bands and Innovation Zones. During the 2015 school year, Discovery Elementary was ranked 70 out of 244 schools within SES Band 5 earning an overall rating of an "A".

Discovery Elementary is unique when it comes to promoting student achievement. During the month of September, students and staff participate in the annual Academic Kick-Off. During the Academic Kick-Off, core (ELA, Math, Science) curriculum programs, student expectations for excellence and behavior, and school wide incentives are introduced to the students. Additionally, academic enhancements such as i-Ready, Reflex Math, Accelerated Reader (AR), Caught Reading program, 100 Club, and school wide monthly Checkpoints are highlighted at the Academic Kickoff. Support staff members closely monitor computer-based programs and feedback is provided to the teachers on a monthly basis. Data tracking of student progress is the foundation of our continuous improvement model for success. The monitoring of data is reflected in many ways. Data walls can be found in teachers' classrooms, and school hallways. Curriculum coaches in collaboration with teachers create Weekly Focus Calendars based on the Florida State Standards. Monthly school-wide Checkpoints assess student proficiency of skills mastered in ELA/Reading, Writing, Math, and Science. Data from the formative Checkpoints is analyzed to identify students that are in need of remediation, enrichment and/or maintenance. The data is also used to tailor planning and instruction in the classroom, as well as to design professional development and guide weekly professional learning communities. Students who score 100% on any of the Checkpoints are inducted into the prestigious 100 Club. The 100 Club induction ceremonies are held during the fall and the spring semester. Club members are awarded with a certificate, T-Shirt, and food. The club's primary focus is to celebrate student success.

### **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.

Discovery Elementary's highly effective staff is dedicated to meeting the educational needs of all students, in a safe and nurturing learning environment. Discovery is committed to serving the Lauderhill, Tamarac, and Sunrise communities. The partnership among the community stakeholders, parents and school focus on supporting student development, improving student outcomes, supporting families and developing strong communities. For the past three years, Discovery has maintained high standards of learning as measured by the Florida State Assessment (FSA) and the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT). The data represents the percentage of students performing at the satisfactory level and above as determined by the passing standards established by the State Board of Education. In 2012, 57% of the students performed at satisfactory level and above in Reading, 55% in Mathematics, 50% in Science, and 68% in Writing. Resulting in a "B" for the 2011-2012 school year. In the summer of 2013, teachers were invited to participate in a Summer Institute to receive quality professional development based on students' strengths and weaknesses. In combination with effective standards based learning, technology integration, the implementation of Marzano's Nine High Yield strategies, peer coaching and mentoring, a significant improvement in student learning was achieved. In 2013, scores increased in most subject areas with the exception of Science only, where 32% of the students were at satisfactory level and above thus earning a school grade of B. In 2014, the curriculum team adopted the slogan "Bring Your 'A' Game" and implemented the same instructional strategies with fidelity to reclaim the "A" status. As a result, all subject areas increased, including Science with 43% of the students meeting satisfactory and above. Discovery Elementary has been working diligently to improve student proficiency in the area of science. By incorporating weekly interactive science lessons and the addition of a Science Special that includes hands on experiments, it is the expectation that student knowledge and mastery of the science standards will improve. Additionally, Discovery Elementary would like to improve parental involvement and the home school connection where 100% of parents are active partners in their child's education. When parents and teachers work well together, everyone will benefit. Parents and teachers can provide each other with unique insight and different perspectives about the same child, culminating in a complete understanding of the student, their abilities, strengths, and challenges. A successful parent-teacher-school partnership will show our students that an entire team of adults is on his or her side. In 2017 Discovery Elementary School was awarded the East Coast Technical Assistance Center (ECTAC) Exceeding Expectations in Student Achievement Award for the 2016 school year. In the next three years, Discovery Elementary will strive to become an exemplary technology integrated school by addressing technology use, devices, and integration of critical thinking skills. Discovery Elementary's highly effective staff and students have done it again we are currently an "A" school for the 2017-2018 school 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.

During the 2013-2014 school year, Discovery Elementary was one of five schools to pilot the First Move Chess Program in every second and third grade classrooms. Students in second and third grade received weekly chess instruction as part of their school curriculum. This innovative pilot program was implemented in 18 classrooms at Discovery Elementary and is a collaboration with the School Board of Broward County, the America's Foundation for Chess "First Move" program, and the City of Sunrise. The award-winning, standards-aligned "First Move" uses chess as a learning tool to enhance the core curriculum while improving students' critical thinking and test taking skills. Through this program, students nationwide have better understanding of math concepts at an early age and have demonstrated gains in reading and math. After its first year of implementation, FCAT scores in third grade improved 18 points in mathematics. Discovery Elementary was also featured on several local news channels for its innovation of chess integration in the classroom.