



Executive Summary

Deerfield Beach Elementary 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?

School Context

Include info about

Deerfield Beach Elementary School serves a Kindergarten to 5th Grade population of approximately 706 students. Our school is a part of the Deerfield Beach High School Innovation zone, which is comprised 6 elementary schools, 1 middle school, 1 high school, and 1 learning center. The Deerfield Innovation Zone is a part of the 6th largest school district, the School Board of Broward County that consists of 310 schools that service over 260,000 students.

Family Context

The following information was obtained from the U.S. Census Bureau website based on 2014 estimates. Deerfield Beach has a total population of 78,881. The Deerfield community has a high school graduation rate of 84.5% with 22.4% of its population holding a Bachelor's degree or higher. The median household income is \$38,353 with 19.1% of persons living below the poverty line.

Community Contexts

Deerfield Beach covers 15.09 square miles in the northeastern part of Broward County. Major metropolitan areas are easily accessible using the I-95 or Florida Turnpike with it being 17 miles to Fort Lauderdale, 42 miles to Miami, and 30 miles to West Palm Beach. All the communities of Broward County are well served by a modern network of roads, rail, and air transportation.

There is a wide range of civic organization available in Deerfield Beach. Residents participate in the following organizations, Deerfield Beach Chamber of Commerce, International Society for Autism, Kiwanis Club of Deerfield Beach, Boys & Girls Club, City Recreation and Club Sports, Boys & Girls Scouts, Historical Society, American Legion, and the Woman's Club of Deerfield Beach. In addition, parents are active within the schools by participating in each school's Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) and Booster Clubs.

General Characteristics

The total population of Deerfield Beach is 78,881 with 61.5% of the population ranging in age from 18 to 64. The current student population of Deerfield Beach Elementary has stayed consistent in the past 4 years. The number of students has stayed within a range of 650 to 700.

Ethnicity/Race

Deerfield Beach Elementary School is a diverse school with the following Ethnic Breakdown:

-White 33.7%

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- Black/African American 30.1%
- Hispanic 27.6%
- Multi-Racial 6.37%
- Asian 1.98%
- Native American or Native Indian 0%
- Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander 0.14%

This is relatively close to the Ethnic diversity represented in our city with the following breakdown:

- White 56%
- Black/African American 25.6%
- Hispanic or Latino 14.2%
- Multi-Racial 2.7%
- Asian 1.5%
- American Indian 0.2%

Housing

In Deerfield Beach, there are over 42,000 housing units with a 64.8% Homeownership rate. The median value of owner-occupied housing units is \$108,600. There are currently 31,711 households with an average of 2.38 persons per household.

Economic Characteristics

As of 2007, there were 10,031 business firms in Deerfield Beach. Retail sales per capita was \$15,466. The median household income, \$38,353, is below the Florida average of \$46,956.

Overall Strengths

Deerfield Beach is a diverse community with 41.4% of the community that speak another language other than English while 31.5% of the community is foreign born.

Overall Challenges

The Deerfield Beach community for those holding a bachelor's or higher degree and those holding a high school degree is slightly below the Florida average.

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.

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Deerfield Beach Elementary Vision:

Inspire, Connect, Challenge

Learning Areas and High Priority Expectations for Student Learning:

Learning Area - Literacy

All students will be able to read fluently entering third grade.

All students leaving kindergarten will know all of their letters and sounds.

Learning Area - Mathematics

All students will be able to either fluently add, subtract, multiply, or divide dependent on their grade level standards.

All students will use critical thinking skills to solve complex problems.

Learning Area - Citizenship

All students will develop an understanding and commitment to utilizing the eight core character traits inside and outside of school.

Rationale for Learning Area:

Our district's vision for student learning concentrates on a development of college and career ready students. Creating thoughtful readers who can problem solve and navigate our 21st Century world is key.

Literacy, Problem Solving, and Citizenship are the focus of accountability requirements for our district.

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.

The teachers, staff, parents, and students have accomplished many notable achievements in the previous few years and continue to strive for more. These include but are not limited to the areas of academics, athletics, arts, music, community involvement, and commitment to the environment.

Deerfield Beach Elementary has gradually improved over the last three years moving from an adjusted letter grade of a 'C' (traditionally a letter grade of 'D') to a high 'C'. In 2013-2014, the school made one of the district's largest gains on the School Accountability Report with a gain of 44 points.

Over the past 5 years, Deerfield Beach Elementary has earned a multitude of grants from local businesses and our district. The JM Family corporation, a local Deerfield community partner, has donated over \$15,000 in grant money to help fund a variety of initiatives from purchasing resources to covering field trip costs for entire grade levels. The Broward Education Foundation has provided many of our teachers with mini-grants of up to a \$1,000 to enact a variety of different programs for their children.

Our school has also been awarded grants from the City of Deerfield Beach and the P3 Eco Challenge our vegetable garden and butterfly garden initiatives. A variety of grade level classes maintain and utilize both of these spaces for classroom projects including cooking, science experiments, writing projects, and other extended learning opportunities.

The school has entrenched itself in the community with a variety of projects that include Green Apple Day of Service, Founders Day, MLK Day, and other city events held throughout the year. We have recently been invited to participate in future Earth Day events with our chorus and recently had students participate in a citywide Talent Show. Each year we submit student artwork to the Deerfield Beach Art festival, one of the largest outdoor art festivals in South Florida. Our school has also been listed as a historical site on the National Registry since 1996. We recently began giving tours of the old school building, part of Deerfield Beach's rich history since 1926.

Extra curricular activities have proven to be an enriching part of our school. Our school's music program includes a chorus and a percussion club. The chorus has two main performances a year with a winter and spring concert, but also are throughout the community with a variety of local Deerfield performances. The past two years, our chorus has had the honor of singing holiday pieces at the Fort Lauderdale International Airport. The percussion club meets weekly and is a grant-funded project through the Florida Youth Orchestra.

The Art program participates in a yearly charity drive focusing on selling a piece of art to raise money for a variety of different foundations. In years past, the school has done projects for Sandy Hook and Hurricane Sandy. Each year, we host an art show and also enter multiple pieces in a Zone showcase art show. The art teacher also runs a pop-top collection for the Ronald McDonald Foundation. The school has won this competition twice in the past 5 years by collecting the most pop-tops in all of Broward County.

Our Physical Education program runs two premier events throughout the year. One, our field day is a three day extravaganza, created and run by our PE coach in a partnership with Atlantic Technical Magnet, a local Broward School. High school volunteers come in an assist in the running of 20 to 25 events that each kid gets to work through. Jump Rope for Heart, a huge philanthropic fundraiser for our school.

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raises awareness for the American Heart Association while raising over \$4,000 each year.

Deerfield Beach Elementary has a healthy Parent Teacher Association (PTA), which works hand in hand with the school to best meet our students' needs. Each year they host a Snowy Day Read-in, a hot chocolate pajama day during Literacy Week, where all students get to relax and read in class. PTA's two marquee events are the Fall Festival and the Silent Auction. Both bring in over 500 people to our school to participate in fun activities.

Deerfield Beach has a lush garden, which is tended to by various grade levels and student's with unique exceptionalities. This garden serves as a sensory area for the autistic cluster on campus, between the array of colors and myriad of smells their senses are constantly being challenged. The garden has plants donated by local community members, and also encourages wholesome and healthy eating habits among our young minds.

Besides the beautiful enhancements for the school grounds Deerfield Beach Elementary is raising awareness of energy conservation with student lead projects that are focused on conservation and renewable energy. The "Green Team", is a group of students that collect and document the school's recyclables. The team's goal is to increase the amount of recyclables from the previous year, which not only helps the individual school, but also the city that the children live in.

Over the next three years, Deerfield Beach Elementary is striving to improve the rigor of instruction and the increased utilization of technology. As a staff, over the next three years, we will dissect standards and build lessons, formative assessments, and learning scales that address not only Depth of Knowledge (DOK) level one, but also levels two through four. Our goal with technology will be to increase the authentic use of technology as a tool to develop a deeper understanding of our Florida standards. Devices will not only be used for integrated learning systems, but for research and project development.

Additional Information

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

Deerfield Beach Elementary recently received their portion of the SMART Bond money for a technology refresh. The school was able to purchase close to 500 laptop devices for students and 70 laptop and desktop computers for their staff. They are currently working through a variety of professional development to become acclimated to these machines. The school has also voted on their \$100,000 special project from SMART bond money. Going with a "green approach", the school will build an outdoor classroom, housed under a large Chickee hut.

Over the past year, Deerfield Beach Elementary has created an initiative of developing on-grade level readers by grade 3 with a heavy emphasis on the primary grade levels. During the 2015-2016 school year, the primary level teachers have been trained in and initiated grade level intervention programs (kindergarten and first grade Foundations, second grade Phonics for Reading). They also have gone through a rigorous professional development path to learn Jan Richardson's model for Small Group Guided Reading instruction.

Finally, the school will implement their own after-school facility to provide afternoon and evening care. With this initiative, the school hopes to service 125 to 175 students with additional hours of learning, sports, recreation, games, and quality instruction.