



Executive Summary

Riverland Elementary School

Broward County Public Schools

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Description of the School.....	2
School's Purpose.....	4
Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement.....	5
Additional Information	6

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?

Riverland Elementary School is located in the southwestern portion of the City of Fort Lauderdale in Eastern Broward County. Riverland Elementary is a World Languages Magnet School that serves 637 students in Early Headstart through 5th Grade. The school is reflective of the community in which it is located in terms of demographics. For the 2017-2018 school year, Riverland Elementary has a 98% minority rate and 100% of its students are considered economically disadvantaged, receiving free or reduced priced meals. Forty-one percent of students speak English as their Second Language with the majority of these students speaking Spanish or Haitian-Creole. Eleven percent of students are classified as having a disability and are served through an inclusive model of instruction with both push-in and pull-out services. School enrollment has declined by 43 students over the past four years, dropping from 645 in 2013 to 602 in 2017. The demographic data from the past three school years, listed below, show little fluctuation in the demographics of the school. Riverland Elementary School's demographics were as follows during the corresponding years:

- 2014-2015

Female - 52%
Male - 48%
White - 47%
Black - 51%
Multi-Racial - 2%
Hispanic - 42%
ELL - 42%
ESE - 10%
FRL - 95%

- 2015-2016

Female - 50%
Male - 50%
White - 46%
Black - 51%
Multi-Racial - 1%
Hispanic - 43%
ELL - 37%
ESE - 10%
FRL - 97%

- 2017-2018

Female - 52%
Male - 48%
White - 2%

Executive Summary

Riverland Elementary School

Black - 50%

Multi-Racial - 2%

Hispanic - 45%

ELL - 41%

ESE - 11%

FRL - 100%

The diversity of the faculty and staff members employed at Riverland Elementary closely aligns to that of the student population with a minority rate of 98%. Additionally, 35% of faculty/staff members speak a second language.

Over the past three years, Riverland Elementary has experienced a steady increase of students who come from low-income households as well as minority backgrounds. Since 2014, the Free or Reduced lunch rate has increased from 95% to 100% and the minority rate has increased from 91% to 98%.

Some unique challenges associated with the community that Riverland Elementary serves includes students who come to school unprepared or under-prepared with limited pre-school experiences due to a lack of parent education about the programs available. Additionally, the community is a working class community primarily made up of laborers who work long hours, leaving little time to assist their children with school-related activities at home. Many of the students who speak English as their second language have recently immigrated from other countries where they received little education.

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 vision of Riverland Elementary School is to provide a world-class education to all students, preparing them to live, work, and compete in a global economy. The mission of Riverland Elementary School is that all students will be instructed by a highly qualified teacher, who will meet the present needs of the students and work collaboratively with parents/guardians so that students become college and career ready. All students will demonstrate at least one year's worth of growth. Program offerings such as the World Languages program are directly aligned to the school's vision statement. Additionally, high expectations in all classrooms and content areas are held by administration and teachers to meet the needs of all students through individualized, quarterly achievement goals, and individualized instruction through innovative programs such as the Digital 5 Initiative, the balanced literacy model for literacy instruction, and a 90-minute block of math instruction infused with individualized center-based performance tasks to build automaticity, fluency, and critical thinking skills.

Further evidence of the school's program offerings alignment to the vision and mission statements include Riverland Elementary School's magnet program not only being recognized as the second highest rated elementary school magnet program in the district, but also students' abilities showcased at an exemplary level by taking home gold medals in nearly all categories at the annual World Languages Competition held by the Innovative Programs Department.

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.

Riverland Elementary School has achieved several notable accomplishments in the past three years. The World Languages Magnet Program offered at Riverland Elementary was recently rated the second highest magnet program of all of Broward County's elementary schools according to an analysis conducted by Metis, an independent educational research firm. It is now the only World Languages Magnet Program in the district. Additionally, Riverland Elementary School was one of only 37 schools awarded the Digital 5 Grant in 2014, which provides all 5th grade students with a laptop computer for use at both school and home for instruction in a blended learning environment. Finally, in 2013-2014, the school ranked in the top 10% of all Broward County elementary schools for learning gains, with an overall increase of 65 points on Florida's School Grades grading scale. Of those 65 points, 33 points came from improvements in reading, resulting in Riverland Elementary School not only being removed from the lowest 100 schools in the State in reading, but also being excluded from the lowest 300 schools in reading.

In order to continue moving forward to prepare our students for college and career readiness, a deliberate focus has been placed on utilizing effective progress monitoring systems in order to individualize instruction for all students. Progress is monitored in mathematics through daily, standards-based formative assessments, as well as quarterly summative assessments. Progress is monitored in English Language Arts on a daily basis through formative, text-based, short response questions. Additionally, we have a comprehensive early literacy progress monitoring system in place for grades K-3 which monitors students' comprehension, oral reading fluency, and high frequency word reading efficiency on a quarterly basis. Students falling below grade level in any of those three areas are discussed and interventions are offered through the comprehensive problem solving cycle and the Response to Intervention process. This works to ensure that all students demonstrate at least one year's worth of growth each and every year as well as increase overall proficiency in both English Language Arts and mathematics.

In addition to working to ensure students are achieving proficiency and/or demonstrating at least one year's worth of growth in both English Language Arts and mathematics, Riverland Elementary School seeks to increase parental participation in academic initiatives by providing parents with appropriate training so that they can help their children. Additionally, the school will work to continue to bring in business and community partners that will positively effect student achievement.

Additional Information

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

Riverland Elementary World Languages Magnet School offers students a well-rounded, global education in a safe, welcoming, and loving environment. In order to create and foster a sense of community and family within the school, all students are valued through initiatives such as the morning announcements being delivered in English, Spanish, and Haitian-Creole, the three dominant languages spoken by our students.