



Executive Summary Template School Accreditation

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.

Question 1 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?

Description of School

Bennett Elementary is a "True Landmark," nestled in Poinsettia Heights, one of the oldest neighborhoods in the city of Fort Lauderdale. Bennett Elementary opened its doors in 1952 and has been providing a quality public school education for our students for the past 64 years. Bennett was a traditional "neighborhood school" during the 1950's, 60's, 70's, and the early 1980's, with the majority of students residing in the Poinsettia Heights neighborhood who walked to school during those years. During the mid-1980's, a boundary change affected Bennett and student enrollment declined. Bennett is part of the Fort Lauderdale Innovation Zone that includes seven elementary schools that feeds Sunrise Middle School and Fort Lauderdale High School. Also, during the mid-1980's Bennett became an ESE Cluster Site (now called Special Programs) for Intellectually Disabled (InD) students. Students who qualify for this program and who reside in the Fort Lauderdale Innovation Zone boundary are eligible to attend Bennett. Bus transportation is provided.

Due to the rising cost of housing into the new millennium, the number of elementary age students in the Poinsettia Heights neighborhood declined. Bennett was able to maintain a stable student population due to increased reassignments granted by the school district. During the 2003-04 school year Bennett opened two Pre-K ESE classrooms for 3 & 4 year old students who qualified for the program. The Pre-K ESE program has continued to grow almost on a yearly basis. The district has selected Bennett for several more ESE Pre-K programs. As we begin the 2018-2019 school year, we currently house seven Pre-K ESE classrooms, (three Specialized Pre-K ESE classrooms, three Intensive Pre-K ESE classrooms and one Behavioral Pre-K ESE classroom). Our

eighth and ninth Pre-K classes are Head Start classrooms. We offer three self-contained InD Special Program classrooms for K – 2 and 3 - 5. Our regular education classes are grades K-5. Bennett is considered a relatively small elementary school with 375 total students in grades Pre-K-5th grades. Bennett is a Title 1 school with 94% of our students qualifying for the Free & Reduced lunch program. Bennett also qualifies for the “Universal Free Breakfast Program” for every student. Bennett is a diverse school with the following demographics: 54% Black, 30% White, 13% Hispanic, and 3% listed as Multi-racial. Bennett's instructional staff has remained stable the past several years with little change. We currently have 40 instructional staff members. Instructional staff demographics include: 70% white, 24% Black, 6% Hispanic. One member of our instructional staff holds a Doctoral Degree, 19 of our instructional staff have a Masters Degree, and 21% of our instructional staff are National Board Certified Teachers. Due to the large number of ESE classrooms at Bennett, we employ seventeen Educator Support Professionals (Teacher Assistants & Classroom Assistants); the Demographics include: 35% White, 64% Black, 1% Hispanic.

Moving forward there are some significant challenges facing Bennett Elementary. We continue struggling with parent involvement. Over 50% of our students consist of those on reassignment, consequently, we have struggled with active parent participation in our PTA and at after school events. We continue to reach out to our parents and the school community. We promote our Title 1 Compact and provide activities that support our families. We sponsor family nights that promote our academic programs and innovative ways our parents can support their children.

Our school facility is another major challenge at Bennett. Construction on our new cafeteria was completed in 2007. At that time Bennett was slated for a replacement school. Planning began, architectural drawings were rendered, and bids for construction were processed. Because of the decline in Capital Funding, our project and many in the District were cancelled. Fast forward to 2018, our facility is in dire need of improvement. Bennett has one small sand playground, which has to support our Pre-K through 2nd grade students. There are no courts for our intermediate students.

Question 2 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.

Our Vision

Educating today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world.

Our Mission

Bennett Elementary is committed to educating all students to reach their highest potential.

Our Values

At Bennett all students will learn when their individual needs are met. Learning is a lifelong process. Every student has a right to a high-quality educational option. Engaged families combined with highly effective teachers and school leaders are the core components of a successful school. Positive character education is essential to whole child development. The diversity of our community is valuable and must be embraced. Students must be prepared as innovative thinkers and responsible citizens to compete in a global economy. High-Quality customer service is a critical component of high-quality education. Positive stakeholder involvement enhances student achievement. Everyone must be held to the highest ethical standards to achieve excellence. Everyone must contribute to and be held accountable for student achievement. An equitable education provides all necessary resources to meet student needs.

Our Beliefs

Bennett is a family working together to educate our students both in academics and character which we believe is the true goal of education.

Purpose Statement

Strengthening the Paths to Success is what Bennett Elementary is trying to accomplish. To ensure that every student receives the very best instruction in pursuit of becoming a well- rounded individual that addresses not only his or her academic success but also social-emotional needs that serve as catalyst to student achievement beyond expectations.

Our Three Goals

Bennett's Program Offerings and the Expectations for Students are: 1) To provide High Quality Instruction to reduce and eliminate achievement gaps. Teachers will utilize the most current and appropriate teaching strategies, practice, assessment, remediation and tracking tools to improve student success. 2) To Provide Continuous Improvement 3) To utilize effective communication as we promote our accomplishments through social media, effective communication through the school website.

Program Offerings

Our School embodies its purpose through many programs allowing students to thrive by being active in Student Government, Safety Patrol, News Anchors, Special Olympics, and Chess. Students have the opportunity to excel in both academics and extra-curricular activities. At our year end awards, students are honored and can be awarded; The Presidents' Award, High Honor Roll and Honor Roll, Perfect Attendance, Character Trait Awards, and Student of the Month. Activities are sponsored such as 5th Grade Kick Ball, Teachers vs. Students, Title 1 Family Nights with our Business Partner, Barnes and Noble, and Math Night at Publix. Science Night showcases the many ways

students learn by hands on demonstrations of Science Projects. Students are also involved in musical performances and learn the art of showmanship. Our art program has been honored being selected as the model art class in the district. We boast of having 100% highly qualified teachers, and Assistant Teachers.

The following groups provide professionalism and support for our programs at our school; National Board Certified Teachers, Parent Advisory Council, Parent Teacher Association, Community Volunteers, Community Partnerships with Nova Mentors, Sunrise Middle School, Certified Adult Mentors, Trendsetters Mentors of Fort Lauderdale High School, and Sunrise Middle School Peer Counselors Program. Whole Foods, Barnes and Noble, East Broward Federated Women's Republican Club, Sunshine Aftercare Incorporation, Kiwanis Club Fort Lauderdale Beach, Children Aide Club, Friends of the Library, Christ Church which sponsors Carry Out for Kids, Reading Buddies and Serve Everybody Program. Our school has 21st Century Classroom Technology with the D5 and D4 Program, Ticket to Read, Canvas access to School District's Interactive website, Online Textbooks and Educational Resources for all students and parents. Our special programs include Head Start, Specialized ESE Programs (Pre-school through 5th grade), Specialist Teachers in Visual Arts, Music, Science, and Math following a STEAM curriculum framework.

Our school is a Family

Every day the school day begins with "Good Morning Bennett Bobcats: We are here from WBES – TV tune in for the morning announcements". Each classroom is greeted by their classmates serving as Anchors, Co Anchors, Camera Man, and Director. We start the day with: "*The Pledge of Allegiance*", followed by our own Bennett Pledge of Success." We get filled in on weather, the lunch menu, and special reports from our Principal and Assistant Principal. We have student guests celebrating accomplishments, showing art or reading a well-scripted paper. Occasionally, we have special guests from the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), Student Council or special visitors from the North Pole like Santa. The students sign off the Broadcast with the Bennett Moto: "Students will always be respectful, be responsible and be a role model", "Signing off from WBES-TV".

3 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.

In 2013-14 Bennett was one of 27 BCPS Schools to implement the *Digital 5: Pathways to Personalized Learning Program*. This was part of the district's Strategic Plan to use digital tools, strategies and resources to transform classrooms into "*personalized learning environments*" that foster student centered instruction to help equip students with the skills necessary to be college and career ready. Bennett implemented D-5 in all of our 5th grade classrooms. During this exciting year, Bennett was often a host school to

neighboring school principals, specialists and teachers, as they visited our site to observe the students and the program. Also during the 2013-14 school year, Bennett implemented *IFL, Innovations for Learning* in all of our kindergarten and first grade classrooms. Innovations for Learning, a national nonprofit, has been working for more than 20 years to help primary grade teachers be more effective in their pivotal task of teaching students to read. This innovative program also infuses technology (iPads and Mp3 players) strategically used for reading instruction. The other component of the program, *Tutor Mate* is an on-line volunteer tutoring program. Bennett participated in this program through a partnership with the Broward State Attorney's office. Workers from that office would call Bennett Kindergarten and First grade classrooms on a special computer and tutor select students on line. Bennett's Principal and a Kindergarten teacher were featured on *Community Forum*, a *BECON Television presentation* to highlight the program. *Other accomplishments for 2013-14 are as follows:*

- \$2500 BEF Gardens Delight Grant • KCW Student Art Exhibit • BCPS School Lunch Poster Contest 1st Place • Four IDEA Adapter Grant Winners (\$1500) • \$1500 Wells Fargo STEM Grant "HANZON" • \$1,500 Grant State Wide Florida Ag in the Classroom Butterfly Garden

In 2014-15 Bennett implemented an ELL camp, to meet the needs of our ESOL students. These camps were held each Saturday for six weeks. Based on the summative assessments students who participated with fidelity and attended all six sessions made an average learning gain of 20-25%. *Other accomplishments for 2014-15 are as follows:*

In the next three years, Bennett Elementary is committed to enhancing our teacher's understanding of the new Florida State Standards, Marzano's Super 7 teaching strategies, using formative assessments and small group instruction. Working with a team of teachers, we will unwrap the LAFS and MAFS and update the 2015-2016 Bennett Curriculum Map to include Depth of Knowledge Levels, pre, mid and summative assessments as well as student evidence to demonstrate mastery at each level, 1 – 4, on the performance scale. Teachers will also gain an in-depth understanding of using all types of assessments to guide instructional practices. Teachers will edit/revise their grade level curricular plans during 40-minute weekly data chats with administration and the curriculum coach. During these meetings they will also discuss student performance and student goals. In addition to discussing the C.A.R.E. process, teachers will focus on Response to Intervention (RtI). During Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) teachers will create goals and scales based on the presentation provided by District trainers. These goals and scales will include student performance requirements at each level to ensure that students are aware of what is expected and have a concrete idea of what must be done to move from one level to the next. During the week of pre-planning teachers will receive professional development on each of the Super 7. This in-

depth training will include both “Look Fors” for teacher actions and student actions. The Super 7 will be reviewed quarterly at faculty meetings using Kahoot. The efforts to develop our teachers’ understanding of standards, assessments, and the Super 7 will ultimately increase student engagement, content understanding, and performance.

4. Additional Information

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

For the 2016-2017 school year Bennett Elementary is participating in the Investigating Conceptual Foundations for a Transdisciplinary Model Integrating Computer Science into the Elementary STEM Curriculum. Within this program our third, fourth, and fifth grade students will have an opportunity to learn via integrated lessons that engage them in STEM activities. The focus on Computational Thinking (CT) is a challenge for our learners and the grant opportunity will provide Problem Based Learning modules for teachers to utilize for instruction that focus on Computational Thinking and integrate Computer Science (CS) along with science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).

Bennett Elementary is a TIFV school. We are participating in our third year. From this grant, our teachers have received additional professional development and monetary incentives.