



Executive Summary

Dillard Elementary School

Broward County Public Schools

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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?

Dillard Elementary has a long and proud history that dates back to the early development of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Dillard Elementary was established in 1923. The school included grades 1 through 12 until 1954, when the separation of elementary and high school occurred. Both schools were then built in another location.

Dillard Elementary School is a primary school servicing Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Education Program, VPK (3 & 4 year old students) to Grade 5. The demographic location of the school is in the inner-city of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. More than half the families in the surrounding community are African American.

The housing in this demographic location consists of renters residing in government funded projects or a home with a median value of \$119,000. Being considered a "neighborhood school", 90% of Dillard's students are walkers. Furthermore, 80% of the students reside in a single family resident and/or are raised by a grandparent or great-grandparent. In regards to education, less than 19% of the neighborhood population has a four-year degree. Also, the average income for a family of four is approximately \$30,000 per year.

Dillard Elementary currently has an enrollment of 883 students, which includes 10 Caucasian students, 865 African American students, 2 Asian students, 6 Multi-Racial students, and 13 Hispanic students. The school's enrollment population has been consistent throughout the last three years.

The staff demographics at Dillard Elementary consists of 1 principal, 1 assistant principal, 55 teachers, 1 guidance counselor, 1 media clerk, 1 security monitor, 11 paraprofessionals, 4 full-time custodians, 1 ESE Specialist, 4 office personnel, 1 cafeteria manager, and 5 cafeteria workers.

As a Title I school, Dillard Elementary has a 98% free and reduced lunch population. Through Title I funding, low-income students at the school are provided with a more level "playing field" to have the opportunity to achieve academic success.

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.

At Dillard Elementary, it is our belief that all students can learn if provided the opportunity. The vision of Dillard Elementary is to develop a healthy community of learners who are academically proficient, effective communicators, and responsible citizens. All stakeholders have high expectations for students and are dedicated to provide all students with a challenging and rewarding learning environment.

The mission of Dillard Elementary is to provide a quality education to all students, to collaboratively develop students and prepare them for the 21st century in a stimulating, safe and motivating learning environment.

Dillard Elementary embodies its purpose through a variety of program offerings and high expectations that are embedded within the culture of the school. All students are provided with a stimulating learning environment that consists of reading, writing, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Students' learning is enhanced through the use of multi-media such as I-pads, I-pods, Nook Readers, and laptops. Classrooms are also equipped with Smart Boards or Promethean Boards, projectors, and elmos.

In addition, all students have four special area classes; which consist of music, technology (computers), physical education, and media. Learning across the curriculum is provided and enhanced through the special area courses. Teachers collaborate with the special area teachers to make sure that the learning is transparent. In addition to the school day offerings, there are a variety of afterschool and extracurricular programs that are also provided, which are the following: Art Club, Gardening Club, Super Coders Club, Impact Girls, Step Team, Drumline, and the YMCA.

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.

A notable achievement within the last three years was the increase of parent involvement at Dillard Elementary for the annual Literacy Night Event. Literacy Night is a fun-filled academic event where learning is enhanced through a myriad of ELA activities. Families are assigned to classes and partake in academic activities with their children. There were 411 out of 810 families in attendance for this school year (2016-2017); compared to only 193 families for the school year 2016-2017.

Another notable achievement is a decrease in the number of discipline referrals written in 2016-2017 compared to 2015-2016. This is a direct result of implementing research based behavior strategies such as PAX in the primary grades and CHAMPS in the intermediate grades. Dillard Elementary also has full-time nurse housed at our school for the third consecutive school year. We were fortunate to receive a grant that provided us with an onsite nurse. This year we have a full time Social Worker and a Community Liaison to assist with the social and emotional learning for students to be successful all around.

In the next three years, we hope to increase parental involvement, as well as provide more resources for parents. We are already providing some resources, such as the use of computers for parents in the front office and Parent Enrichment Workshops.

Another area of improvement would be to enhance every staff member's knowledge of disaggregating school-wide data. Although every teacher disaggregates his or her students' classroom data, it would be beneficial for the staff to understand data in all areas. The principal has already begun facilitating PLCs about disaggregating school-wide data with the leadership team. Additionally, Dillard has received a 21st Century Learning Grant enabling us to offer our students an extended school day with Project Based Learning. Students participate in hands-on activities, receive support and homework assistance for the entire school year, including the summer months.

Additional Information

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

Dillard Elementary is committed in preparing our students for the 21st century. Every classroom is equipped with technology, and our students are afforded ample opportunities to participate in a digital learning environment. There are over 55 dedicated partners that participate in educating our students during our Career City. The Career City event provided our 5th grade students with a real-world connection for the out-of-county college tour field trip

In December 2013, a technology club called the Ranger Super Coders was created. The club was designed for students of all ages to provide a great experience in computer science and coding. Our volunteers donate their time and talent monthly for one hour. Our goal is to inspire the youth to build self-confidence, become innovative, and dream about their future.

On May 7th, 2014, Ranger Good Works brought the "City of Ft. Lauderdale-Career City" to the students of Dillard Elementary. Students were able to see firsthand what it feels like to take a walk through a safe and inviting city, which had been created just for them. Students learned about various professions and many of the local industries during their walk. They engaged with professionals and had the chance to ask questions in a comfortable environment. Every year in the Spring, vendors from all professions embark upon Dillard to participate in Career City. Students are offered the opportunity to mingle with and ask questions of professionals in a variety of fields.