**Executive Summary**

Olsen Middle 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?

Olsen Middle School is a suburban middle school, grades 6-8, which serves the portions of Dania Beach and Hollywood, Florida. Olsen Middle is a part of the South Broward Innovation Zone. The community consists of a diverse of approximately 90,000; of which 54.3% are white, 35.4% African American, 36.7% Hispanic, 2.9% American Indian, and 2.3% Asian. The student and staff demographics are representative of the community at large. The community has roughly 10,875 housing units with 82.8% being owned with a median valuation of $189,277. The population has a per capita income of $36,027 as of 2013, with the median household income at $41,291 and 42.6% of persons below the poverty level. One of the challenges Olsen has faced in the past 3 years is decreasing enrollment as there have been a number of Charter schools added to our local school zone. Many of the other schools in the area also have fully funded magnet programs. In the 2011/12 school year Olsen had 1094 students enrolled. Currently, Olsen has approximately 680 students enrolled, 228 in 6th grade, 231 in 7th grade, and 218 in 8th grade. The student body is composed of a diverse population with 22.7% White, 37.1 % Latino/Hispanic, 33.4% Black, 3.7% are of 2 or more races, and a small number of Asian/Pacific Islanders.

There is a total of 74 people on staff at Olsen Middle School. The faculty and staff at Olsen Middle School consists of one principal, two assistant principals, 1 guidance director, 1 guidance counselor, 8 clerical assistants, 7 custodial staff members, 3 security/campus monitors, 5 paraprofessionals, and 46 teachers (including: a literacy coach, ESE specialist, 3 ESE support facilitators (1 per grade level also teachers), and a speech pathologist). The faculty (teachers only) is demographically diverse and includes 34% white, 48% African American, and 15% Latino, and 2% Asian/Native American.

Olsen is a Title I school, 83% of our students receive free or reduced lunch. This presents a unique challenge to meet the needs for access to resources and technology on our campus as many of our students have no access at home. Currently, we have 680 students enrolled at Olsen Middle: 98 students are limited English proficient and 101 are students with disabilities. As our district continues to grow larger and more diverse, schools are required to provide English language acquisition support to over 34,000 students from 170 different countries that speak over 54 different languages! In our continued endeavor to involve the families of all of these students, Olsen Middle School has implemented SIOP (Sheltered Instruction Observation Protocol). When implemented with fidelity, SIOP is shown to: increase student performance and achievement, improve academic content and language skills, and prepare students to become college and career ready.

## 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 mission is to offer a technologically enhanced academic program of depth by supporting students as they develop into a community of lifelong learners working together to become college and career ready providing a nurturing environment where academic and personal excellence can be achieved. The school's mission and vision statements are posted throughout the school, on the school's website and in student planners.

Awesome Olsen Middle School has an unyielding commitment to providing "Excellence for Every Child, Everyday!" We accomplish this by setting high expectations, coupled with extensive support for all students both behaviorally and academically. Our "BIG 5" school-wide behavior plan sets the goals for students by encouraging them to develop lifelong habits pertaining to respect, dress code, hallway etiquette, attendance, and technology use that will facilitate their success in high school, post-secondary education, the workforce and beyond.

Additionally, we offer a variety of courses that serve to both remediate and accelerate each student based on his/ her personal needs. Olsen's Advanced Achievers Academy is our school's innovative program designed to develop the whole child by providing individualized support. Moreover, students take challenging coursework, receive monthly visits from guest community speakers, and engage in various extracurricular opportunities geared to ensure student success. Students in need of additional assistance participate in our Academic Success Center after school program throughout the school year. We also offer a number of advanced courses that allow our students to accelerate beyond middle grades curricula and complete coursework at the high school level to place them ahead of their class upon entry into 9th grade. These students will also be better prepared to handle the level of rigor in Advanced Placement and other courses that will allow them to earn college credits when they become high school students.

To effectively analyze student deficits in math and reading, Olsen Middle School created data teams, which are small, grade -level department teams, referred to as Professional Learning Communities/PLCs, to collaboratively analyze student data and select strategies to drive instruction and improve instructional practice. To address math deficits, students were given a double block of math to infuse tutoring throughout the day. This additional math class serves as a supplemental course and supports student need for re-teaching certain concepts. The same occurs for those students with low scores in reading. In addition to the regular reading and writing instruction received in their Language Arts classes, they are scheduled for a 90-minute block of reading. Social studies and Science teachers incorporate reading and writing strategies into their curriculum to provide all students with an opportunity to practice these skills constantly throughout the day.

Computer programs, such as, GIZMOs, Mathletics, Achieve3000, and MyAccess are available for our 24/7 learning initiative which allows students to have practice time on the appropriate standards inside and outside of the classroom. These tools are being used to drive students toward improving Florida Standards Assessment scores as all students are expected to spend twenty minutes per night on each online academic program. Data gathering is continually monitored in order to adjust instruction as needed.

At Olsen we believe in educating the whole child by harnessing the power of every child's strengths and developing skills and character. In addition, Olsen has many extracurricular activities available for students to participate in. The National Junior Honor Society and Student Government clubs volunteer at many events in the school and community. We also have Eco Club that meets weekly and recycles items from teacher classrooms. Members of the Eco Club also create items using organic materials to present during Family Nights. Girls on the Run club is one of the athletic clubs that provide physical outlets and character development for students. Recreational sports are also available for student athletes to engage. Olsen sporting events include: soccer, track, basketball, cheerleading, flag football and volleyball.

The students with special needs and their non-disabled peers practice and compete during Special Olympics. The main events they participate in are: football, track and field. Olsen Middle School is well represented during the Special Olympics locally in Broward County and also on the state level.

## 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.

One of "Awesome" Olsen Middle School's most notable accomplishments is its Science Olympiad Team (Team Olsen). This organization meets afterschool and every Saturday throughout the year in order to prepare for annual competitions at the district, state, and national levels. Team Olsen has qualified for the state championship for three of the last four years, 2016 being one of the years. This year we have expanded this program by having science teachers and students from our feeder schools interact with our Science Olympiad team in hands- on activities such as coding, building robots or floatation devices. Additionally, Team Olsen is extremely proud of having the most student and teacher usage for the GIZMOs online interactive program in the district. Olsen Middle School has also been able to an extremely high pass rate (95-100%) for all of our End of Course High school exams (Algebra I Honors, Geometry Honors, and Biology Honors).

Two areas of opportunity for improvement that Olsen Middle School has tackled over the past 3 years are parental involvement and academic proficiency in English/Language Arts and Math. The previous school improvement plan addressed these needs by implementing academic supports and implementing outreach programs. Moving forward these are areas that we hope to build and expand even more over the next 3 years.

Research supports increased student academic performance when there is consistent parental support. The parental involvement of middle school students appears to decline, as students get older. Thus, parental involvement has been a challenge at Olsen Middle School as our students are in their pre-teen and teenage years. Surveys previously completed in a computer-based format were previously offered in paper form to our parents this year to remove the barriers of the digital divide for those with no internet access. To ensure parents have an opportunity to engage in school activities we have an active PTA as well as a School Advisory Council and School Advisory Forum where parents meet on a regular basis to voice their concerns and share ideas. Additionally, Olsen coordinates many family events throughout the year, including the summer. Parent conferences are scheduled two days each week, throughout the school year. There are two sixth grade orientations during the months of June and July prior to the start of the new school year. Open house is typically scheduled on the Friday before school starts for all grade levels and parents. Parents and stakeholders are also encouraged to attend our numerous performances and sporting events. We continually strive to increase our parental involvement by hosting extra-curricular events including, but not limited to the following: Fall Family Festival, Welcome Home Day( incoming 6th graders visit Olsen), Educational Forums (Colleges and Universities, and Local Professionals introduce students to their programs/fields), and Curriculum and Family Dinner Nights (Bring teachers and students together to discuss student achievement data, grade level curricula, and state academic requirements). We have also been working extremely hard to increase our student enrollment by promoting the many great things we are doing on campus through social media, involvement in community and business events, and partnerships.

The second area we seek to improve is student proficiency on the Florida Standards Assessment in English/Language Arts and Math. This

year, Olsen Middle School has started the Academic Success Center, an after-school program (run by teachers) to provide intense instruction aligned to Florida State Standards. The goal of the program is to improve proficiency on the state test and Teachers refer students to the center based on their performance on informal assessments within the classroom setting. These informal assessments evaluate student knowledge of the standards. There are four teachers assigned to the center: Language Arts teacher, ESE Teacher, and two Math teachers. The center operates Monday through Wednesday from 1:50 p.m. - 3:50 p.m. We are hoping to expand this program over the next 3 years so that teachers from all departments are available to offer homework help as well as additional support in mastery of their content standards.

In the next 3 years, the leadership and faculty at Olsen plan to focus on further development of our innovative programs such as our Advanced Achiever's Academy also called, Triple "A", in which students participate in rigorous learning programs that result in industry certification. We also hope to further develop our Science Olympiad team, who has competed against various Science Technology

Engineering and Mathematics magnet programs and teams across the country and won top honors.

## Additional Information

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

Olsen Middle School has also prepared a detailed plan under the guidance of the district (in the Adopted District Educational Facilities Plan) for making additional improvements; thanks to the approval of the bond referendum and the recently allocated SMART Program funds. Over the next 3 years Olsen Middle School will be utilizing $7.7 million in funding to update facilities in a major renovation to our campus including fire sprinklers, electrical, roof, windows, security features upgrade, Media Center improvements and removal of our old campus building which is no longer being used. There is also an allocation in the plan to invest in technological infrastructure to update servers and data ports, purchase new computers (to close the gap in computer to student ratio), and to upgrade the wireless network. We are excited about making Olsen a leader in the use of technology in education and these resources are sure to help our students obtain computer skills for college and career in the 21st century.