**Executive Summary Template School Accreditation**

**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?*

Larkdale Elementary is a PreK-5 public school with approximately 372 students. It is located in Fort Lauderdale. It is a Title I school, with approximately 95% of students qualifying for free/reduced lunch. Student demographic information is: Ethnicity-97% Black, 2% Hispanic, 1.7% White, .24% Indian, .49% Multicultural. Currently Larkdale has two Head Start, two PreK ESE, four Kindergarten, three First, three Second, three Third, three Fourth, and three Fifth grade classes. Larkdale is an SSOS (Student Success Opportunity School) school and our structure is centered on S.T.E.M (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics). The faculty consists of highly qualified teachers who are motivated to achieve optimum student success and school improvement. All staff participates in bi-weekly data chats, known as the Captain’s Briefing, to provide the teachers the opportunities to collaborate, plan, and monitor student data. The community consists of retirees, as well as younger parents who once attended Larkdale, and families who have relocated from other boundaries.

One of our significant challenges is building and maintaining consistent, continual parent involvement.

**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 mission of Larkdale Elementary is to provide high-quality Instruction, practice continuous improvement, and effectively communicate a standard of excellence in education for all students. Larkdale promotes the fundamentals of responsibility in each person for his or her own actions that will lead to self-reliance, self-esteem, and a respect for the dignity of every individual. We have established a culture at Larkdale that motivates our students to show Self-control, be Owners of their actions, show Accountability for their choices, and to be Respectful to others (S.O.A.R.), which results in students receiving high quality instruction through continuous improvement and effective communication. Our core business is teaching and learning. Continuous improvement is the corner stone of the instructional focus at Larkdale Elementary. Teachers and administration meet weekly to disaggregate data and align school resources to match students' needs. Celebrating academic success is embedded throughout our practices through honor roll assemblies, school dances, game room, and other creative activities that motivate students to perform at their best.

**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.*

Larkdale Elementary has a strong partnership with the Central Broward Kiwanis Club. Through this partnership our students benefit from the "TERRIFIC KIDS" Incentive Program. Our students are given achievement certificates for showing great citizenship and good character. Kids And The Power Of Work (KAPOW) is another great partnership we have established. The companies that volunteer their time in our fourth and fifth grade classrooms give our students a viewpoint of what it takes to own your own business. Lastly, Zeta Phi Beta Sorority, Incorporated, has adopted Larkdale and through this partnership Larkdale has been afforded a school-based garden through a grant that the sorority wrote. The grant provided us with gardening tools, plants, seeds, and benches. The sorority volunteers in our second-grade classrooms on Fridays to provide a triple dose of reading practice to our students. This initiative is called Z-Hope. Additionally, Larkdale is proud to be in the elite group of schools that have digital classrooms in all of the fourth and fifth-grade classrooms. Digital classrooms are the way to the future because our students are using digital tools to enrich their strengths and remediate their weaknesses in efficient time.

Within the next three years the school is striving to increase parent involvement by providing more opportunities for students to showcase their talents through Art and Musical expressions. We are also striving for all of our students to be reading on grade by the end of second grade. We provide intensive instruction in literacy and math, five days a week, that will accelerate students who are showing deficiencies in those areas.

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

Our school is focused on student achievement and provides many opportunities for parents and students to be involved in academically rich activities. We host Family Make n Take Nights, focused around Reading, Math and Science. Our families will continue to be invited to attend McDonald Family Night and Chuck E. Cheese Family Night because our families have become accustomed to coming out to bringing the students to these fun events. Parents and community members are highly encouraged to attend our monthly School Advisory Council meetings and Title I events where we provide refreshments and childcare.