



Executive Summary

Pine Ridge Education Center

Broward County School District

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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.

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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?

Pine Ridge Education Center is a unique school within Broward County Public Schools. We are unique in that we house four programs designed to meet the social emotional needs of students. The overarching goal for the programs is to provide students with social emotional strategies to be successful at their traditional schools. We house four unique programs at Pine Ridge. They are K-6 behavior change, K-6 expulsion/abeyance, R.I.S.E. (Responsibility Increases Student Equity), and P.R.O.M.I.S.E. (Preventing Recidivism through Opportunities, Mentoring, Interventions, Supports & Education). We house a total of approximately 140 students on any given day. Students in the K-6 behavior change and R.I.S.E. programs attend Pine Ridge Education Center daily. Those two groups are comprised of the following students as of 2/23/2016. We have a total of 88 students (Grade K: 2, Grade 1: 6, Grade 2: 12, Grade 3: 5, Grade 4: 15, Grade 5: 12, Grade 6: 36). Of the 88 students, 74 are Black (84%), 7 are Hispanic (8%), 1 is Multi-racial (1%), and 6 are White (7%). Based on the unique nature of our school and our programs we service students throughout the entire district. Our school social worker works with our families to provide additional services that they may need based on need. We have a school family counselor who provides required therapeutic support for students. Our behavior specialist works with students and staff to develop and implement behavior plans designed to meet the students' individualized needs. We also have an ESE specialist and ESE support facilitator providing necessary ESE supports to students and teachers.

Teachers receive support through a math and literacy coach. We also provide teachers with weekly professional learning community (PLC) opportunities to further their professional growth. They are also encouraged to attend district and other professional development through provided substitute teachers. Our students receive individualized instruction based on the academic and behavioral needs. We implement positive behavioral interventions including the use of "Super Cash" which students earn based on positive expected behaviors to use in the school store. The school store offers snacks and other prizes based on student wishes.

Over the last three years, Pine Ridge has gone through quite a transformation. We added the P.R.O.M.I.S.E. and R.I.S.E. programs to our school based on identified district needs. In addition, we went from a K-12 behavior change model to a K-6 behavior change model. That process presented some growing pains including the need for properly certified elementary teachers. In addition, our behavior change program needed to evolve to service our specific elementary K-6 population. During that evolution we implemented a specific behavior based curriculum called H.O.P.E. (Having Only Positive Expectations), which are behavior strategies, which are taught, based on student referral data/need. Additionally, these strategies are taught school-wide each morning by the school assistant principal and support staff during a televised live television show. On the show students call in and interact with the hosts who present discussion prompts. Each Wednesday students participate in a summary game show based on that week's strategy. In this second year of a K-6 implementation, Pine Ridge has successfully implemented the behavior change model.

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.

Pine Ridge Education Center is a second chance school for students who would otherwise be at risk of dropping out of school and/or falling further behind academically and/or behaviorally. Our vision is "Challenging students to achieve academically and behaviorally to reach their highest potential in a safe and nurturing learning environment." Our mission is "We are promoting passion for learning, caring for others, and skills for our future." Our vision and mission statements guide our programs, which are student centered and based on social emotional research. Each program is designed to meet the individual needs of students in order for them to be successful back at their traditional schools. The overarching goal for the programs is to provide students with social emotional strategies to be successful at their traditional schools. We house five unique programs at Pine Ridge. They are K-6 behavior change, K-6 expulsion/abeyance, R.I.S.E. (Responsibility Increases Student Equity), K-6 A.E.S. (Alternate to External Suspension), and (P.R.O.M.I.S.E. (Preventing Recidivism through Opportunities, Mentoring, Interventions, Supports & Education).

We have a K-6 behavior change program for students whose behavior rises to a level of concern at their traditional school. A behavior intervention committee administratively places those students at Pine Ridge. Students that are here for behavior change are with us for a minimum of 90 days. Each student receives a point sheet that has six goals, three of which are individualized for each student depending on their needs. Students must meet a minimum percentage each day in order to have a successful day. That percentage increases as the student moves up a level on the behavior system. Each level requires 18 successful days. Once students complete 90 successful days, our school based review committee meets to determine (based on the data) if the student is ready to return to their home school. In addition to their traditional academics (based on the Florida standards), students also receive H.O.P.E. (Having Only Positive Expectations), which is a behavior strategies class that each student has during the day. In addition, we have a school-wide behavior strategy television show that provides the same strategies and it further reinforces those strategies school-wide. Within the behavior change population, we also have K-6 students that are sent to Pine Ridge because they have committed an expellable act. Those students come to Pine Ridge for a specified number of days based on their infraction. Once students have completed their expulsion at Pine Ridge they are permitted to return to their traditional school.

R.I.S.E. (Responsibility Increases Student Equity) is an accelerated course of study that was created to improve the graduation rate, decrease the dropout rate, and build the social and emotional characteristics of students. Students who are at least two grade levels behind their peers require intensive curricular support as well as needing their social emotional needs addressed in a supportive, encouraging environment. Additionally, upon completion of the program students are further supported by the R.I.S.E. coach (teacher) through visits to their home middle school as well as coordinated conferences with teachers and other school personnel. Our R.I.S.E. program implements an instructional plan that is designed to close the academic achievement gap for over-aged students to continue to R.I.S.E. above their circumstances. Our accelerated program is designed to empower over aged students with sustainable lifelong strategies to R.I.S.E. to their appropriate grade level, thus creating educational equality.

The P.R.O.M.I.S.E. (Preventing Recidivism through Opportunities, Mentoring, Interventions, Supports & Education) program is an initiative designed to address the unique needs of students (Grades K-12), who have committed a specific non-violent behavioral infraction that would normally lead to a juvenile delinquency arrest and, therefore, entry into the juvenile justice system. In addition, it serves students who have committed infractions related to bullying and harassment. Students are sent to P.R.O.M.I.S.E. for a period of 3, 6, or 9 days depending on the infraction committed. Students are taught behavioral strategies based on the Florida health standards designed to improve their behavior each morning. Then in the afternoon, students are placed in breakout sessions depending on their infraction. These sessions are designed to help students understand the potential consequences of their actions and improve their decision-making skills. P.R.O.M.I.S.E. represents the most comprehensive thinking available in regard to addressing socially unacceptable or illegal behavior, targeting both short and long term

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academic success, aligning best practice models and Restorative Justice principles, and developing pro-social and resiliency skills. P.R.O.M.I.S.E., while addressing the behavior specific to the youth, is committed to addressing family and community circumstances that serve as both strengths and challenges for the youth's resiliency. P.R.O.M.I.S.E. is an intervention-based program designed to correct student behavior that violates Policy 5.8 and/or Policy 5006, Suspension and Expulsion. P.R.O.M.I.S.E. utilizes a comprehensive set of supports and education. The intent of P.R.O.M.I.S.E. is to safeguard the student from entering the judicial system. In addition to P.R.O.M.I.S.E. we also have a K-6 A.E.S. (Alternate to External Suspension) program for students that commit infractions that would otherwise have them externally suspended from the home schools.

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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.

Pine Ridge Education Center has successfully evolved to a center that truly supports the social emotional needs of students throughout Broward County. Our P.R.O.M.I.S.E. and A.E.S. programs have been successful in reducing the number of student suspensions and arrests, further reducing the school to prison pipeline in Broward County. Our first two cohorts of R.I.S.E. have successfully transitioned to their appropriate grade (from 5th to 7th grade) and are currently 7th grade students at their home boundary middle schools. For our K-6 behavior change and expulsion/abeyance programs, we have implemented a solid behavior data based level system individualized based on student need. Students have three custom and three school-wide behavioral goals which they earn points for each period daily. This program has been successful in providing our school stakeholders with a purposeful behavior change progression plan for students to successfully transition back to their home schools. Over the last three years we have strengthened our student social emotional learning focus. Our plan over the next three years is to further strengthen our social emotional learning focus. Our goal to is to further strengthen the curriculum all of our programs with a social emotional, data based focus.

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Additional Information

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

As stated above, Pine Ridge Education Center is home to several innovative district programs that are designed to curtail the schoolhouse to jailhouse pipeline for Broward County Public School students. In July 2015 Superintendent Runcie participated in a summit at the White House to rethink school discipline. The P.R.O.M.I.S.E. program was discussed at this event as a model for a national movement to rethink the process of arresting students for misdemeanor offenses. Superintendent Runcie joined the United States Secretary of Education Arne Duncan on the panel that placed a national spotlight on the P.R.O.M.I.S.E. program. In October 2015 the Fusion television network aired the documentary "Prison Kids" which aired to bring to light the plight of children who are incarcerated for misdemeanors. The documentary, which highlighted the P.R.O.M.I.S.E. program at Pine Ridge, showed the positive impact that a program like P.R.O.M.I.S.E. can have on student and families' lives. Ms. Belinda Hope, principal joined Ms. Nordia Sappleton, curriculum supervisor for Diversity, Prevention, and Intervention at a national conference on school safety in Las Vegas to receive an award for the P.R.O.M.I.S.E. program. Our goal is to have the P.R.O.M.I.S.E. program be a model for other school systems to copy and enact to help a large amount of students across the country. We have recently applied to present at the National Youth-at-Risk Conference in Las Vegas.

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