

**Executive Summary**

Tropical Elementary School

Broward County School District

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# Plantation, FL 33317

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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?

Tropical Elementary is located in Plantation, Florida and is situated in a predominantly middle class community. Tropical houses 1008 students, which included Pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. Tropical has a Deaf and Hard of Hearing (DHH) specialized program (PK-5) that consists of 49 students.

Our student/parent demographic population is 36% White, 18% Black, 35% Hispanic, 4% Multi-racial, 4% Asian. The demographic breakdown of Tropical Elementary School however, is very similar to that of a typical school in the State of Florida, which is made up of 707/1008 Caucasian students on average. There are roughly an equal percentage of males and females at Tropical Elementary School with 53% males and 47% females forming the student body.

Tropical employs 106 faculty members, which include 67 instructional staff. Tropical Elementary School teachers have an average of 15 years of teaching experience. This is slightly higher than the average years teaching experience in Plantation. At Tropical Elementary School, 81.8% of teachers have more than 5 years of teaching experience, which is much more than other schools in Plantation. The median household income in the city of Plantation is $66,396 per year. 53% of the students attending Tropical Elementary are now eligible to receive free or reduced lunch. The number of students eligible for free or reduced lunch has gradually increased over the years, holding steady at 32% (2003-2008), then up to 34 -36% (2008 – 2010), to 41-47% (2011 – 2014), up to the current 53%, which has slightly changed the general composition of the school and impacted student achievement.

## 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.

School's Purpose: Tropical Elementary’ s purpose is to provide our students with a safe and nurturing educational setting that allows all our students to reach their full academic potential.

Our Vision: Educating today’s students to succeed in tomorrow’s world.

Our Mission: Tropical Elementary, in partnership with parents and the community, is to ensure an optimum learning environment, which sets high expectations and enables all students to reach their maximum potential.

Tropical Elementary is dedicated to teaching all students at a high level of rigor through active learning which challenges students to work and think critically and creatively and communicate effectively in order to achieve academic success. We emphasize high expectations for all students through differentiated instruction, which targets all levels of academic proficiency through intensive remediation and/or enrichment activities. Tropical provides a variety of programs (Pre-kindergarten, General Education, Varied Exceptionalities, ESE Services, Guidance, DHH, Gifted, Pull-out/Push-in and intervention groups) to meet the academic and social needs of all students. Tropical is committed to working in conjunction with our parents, partners and community members to ensure educational success for all of our students.

## 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.

The following are notable achievements within the past three years:

* Tropical’s school grade has maintained a B for the past three years.
* Golden School Award recognizing exemplary volunteerism
* Teacher Directed Improvement Fund Teacher Grants – approximately 7 teachers awarded each year
* Broward Education Foundation IMPACT II Teacher Grants, 10 – 20 teachers each of the past three years
* Broward Education Foundation Disseminator and Teacher Grants 3-5 teachers each of the past three years
* Plantation Fire Prevention Poster and Essay Contest Winners each year.
* City of Plantation P.L.A.N.T. recognition awards for school gardens to cultivate “out of the box” learning experiences grown and maintained by students and volunteers
* Plantation Jr. Woman’s Club Garden Grant, each year for the past three years
* Wildflower/Butterfly Garden Grant
* Plantation’s “Art in the Park” Art Contest Winners each year
* Tropical is commended each year by the American Cancer Society and American Heart Association for being one of the top local schools who support their education and fundraising efforts
* Presented at the Gifted and Talented Symposium

Within the past three years, Tropical has steadily increased student proficiency in English-Language Arts, Math and Science. We have seen a steady decline in the performance of our lowest quartile, which is impacting us from earning our school grade of an A. On the 2016 Math FSA, 53% of our students in the lowest quartile made gains, 46% in 2017 and 38% in 2018. On the 2016 ELA FSA, 51% of our students in the lowest quartile made learning gains, 46% in 2017 and 38% in 2018. The school will strive to increase student performance in these areas this year by focusing on our TIER 1 instruction and disaggregating data from our diagnostic assessments to prescribe interventions.

## Additional Information

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

We, at Tropical Elementary, pride ourselves at being an exemplary community school. The faculty and staff provide a welcoming and nurturing learning environment for all of our students. Additionally, our stakeholders (parents, family members, community members, local business owners, etc.) are extremely supportive and are an integral part of Tropical’s success.

Academically, teachers are very proactive in identifying student learning needs early on in order to provide high quality instruction, enrichment and/or remediation when necessary. A variety of interventions are implemented with fidelity (Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI), Fundations, Rewards and Wilson) to narrow the achievement gap for our struggling students.