



Executive Summary

Pompano Beach Elementary School

Broward County Public Schools

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Description of the School.....	2
School's Purpose.....	3
Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement.....	4
Additional Information	5

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?

Pompano Beach Elementary School (PBES) is home to over 525 students, nearly all of whom live at or below the federal poverty level. Due to such a high poverty rate, the challenges our school faces are endless. More than eighty-five percent of the student body are minority, mostly African-American (14.8% White, 63.4% Black/African American, 18.6% Hispanic, 1.5% Multi-Racial, 1.33% Asian, and 0.19% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander). As a Title 1 school, Pompano services 91% of students on Free/Reduced Lunch. Over the last decade, the demographics of this school have significantly shifted from mainly middle class and non-minority.

The school serves students in Pre-K through 5th grade. There are three Pre-K classes- one Pre-K, one Head Start and one Intensive Behavior. There are 25 classrooms that service students in grades K-5. The school also has an Emotional Behavioral Disability special program. This program provides students with emotional and behavioral disabilities a more restrictive environment to receive educational services. There are two classes in the special program that teach students in kindergarten through fifth grade. The school staff includes 54% White, 37% Black or African American, and 9% Hispanic or Latino.

The community of Pompano Beach has high expectations for their schools, particularly their namesake. Six years ago, the staff and community enjoyed a legacy of strong performance on state tests. In 2011, however, there was a dramatic shift in performance, with the last three years at a failing level. This is unacceptable to the staff, community members, business owners, and elected officials. There are the outside factors that make it hard to keep up with the expectations. These factors include absenteeism, lack of health care, homelessness, and the high transient rates of our families.

While change takes time, this is a community that does not have it. There will be little tolerance for an extended pathway for improvement. While recent changes in teaching staff and administration has provided an opportunity for new ideas and focus, securing the very best instructional staff is a top priority. As with all schools in South Florida, qualified teaching candidates are at a premium and unfortunately, multiple vacancies have been left unfilled. This has left students in the unfortunate position of having teachers that are not sufficiently qualified to meet their needs for an extended period of time.

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 purpose at Pompano Beach Elementary School is to ensure that all students learn. Our Mission Statement is as follows:

Pompano Beach Elementary School strives to inspire a love of learning by meeting each child's academic, social and emotional needs while challenging all students to become productive citizens in our ever-changing global community.

We believe that all children can learn. We believe that quality instruction every day depends completely on the quality of the classroom teacher. We believe that our families send their children with the expectation of greatness, and we believe we can accomplish more together than we can apart.

All stakeholders play a vital role in the success of our students.

Students: Engage in a curriculum that motivates them to make connections between the classroom and the real world.

Faculty: Facilitates a rigorous integrated global curriculum that focuses on collaboration, communication, creativity, critical-thinking, and problem solving.

Community: Increasing citizenship through the establishment of local and global community and business partnerships.

Parents: Contribute as active participants in the school and home learning community. Parent participation is a critical component that will predict our success. Currently, we have two volunteers that support our school. This needs to change. A variety of strategies are in play to impact this dilemma.

Central to our future success will be every child's ability to read and write on grade level. Currently, 65% of our students are reading below their grade level. This is now, and will be our unifying focus. We will know each child's reading level, and know exactly what it will take to move them forward.

To this end, we have identified intervention time, materials and personnel to support an accelerated learning plan for each child reading below grade level. Additionally, a curriculum alignment plan has been implemented to ensure that all teachers understand when and how to teach each grade-level standard.

In addition to a strong academic focus, we believe that the emotional needs of students need to be met as well. To this end, we have created two different student mentoring groups- FOCUS on ME and PEARL girls to teach our young men and ladies the skills they will need to be successful in social situations. Our Positive Behavior Team has developed school wide rules and six key essential strategies for students to be successful within our school culture. A school-wide plan has been developed around these to help students learn and master the expectations.

One of our main purposes is to ensure that all students achieve at their highest potential. This is done through a strong Response to Intervention plan in place at the school, a focus on developing teacher skills, Professional Learning Communities that focus on standards-based instruction, and strong data driven instruction.

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.

Pompano Beach Elementary School is one that is very committed to getting better. Having received our third "F" should not imply that there have been no notable achievements worth recognizing. The staff is working very hard this year to transition from instruction primarily from a basal reader to guided and small group reading in an effort to support students' literacy performance. In math, teachers are using resources beyond the district provided textbook that include more hands-on and higher order thinking. Professional development has been streamlined to support our faculty as we transition how we "do" literacy as a school.

This is the first year that the school has been chosen to be a part of the district Dual Language program. Our kindergarten students that meet certain criteria have been placed in a specialized team with two teachers: one that provides instruction in English and one that provides instruction in Spanish. These students will follow this model through each progressive grade. By the end of 5th grade the students will be fluent in reading, writing, and speaking Spanish. This will allow our students that meet magnet program criteria to enter into the same program at one of the feeder middle schools and entrance into one of the highest performing high schools in our district.

In previous years, the school has not had much volunteer support except for the local high school and United Way Reading Pals. This year, the community has embraced our school and committed their time, money, and energy to improve the literacy levels of our students.

Volunteer, both parents and community members, are constantly in our school working with our children. The high school has provided support beyond clubs working with select groups of students to create a Teacher Assistant class, which allows high school students to work in our classes mentoring students and pulling small groups.

Pompano Beach Elementary School is a school that builds and sustains partnerships with the local community. We actively seek new partnerships and continue to build the ones we have in existence. We have different local organizations that are supporting our school such as the Kiwanis, The United Way and Rotary Club. They provide both material resources and support character education initiatives we have in place within the school. We have also have the local Chamber of Commerce, which provides access to initiatives within local community such as Gardening Grants. The businesses that support our school provide resources for students in need such as backpacks and supplies. Not only do we encourage and seek out partnerships to improve the school and increase student achievement, but we also celebrate the success of these programs.

There is a significant amount of hope in this year's plan for improvement, and all teachers have committed to learning what they need to learn related to literacy instruction. In three years, we will be able to describe ourselves as a high performing, literacy based learning environment where all teachers are considered to be a literacy specialist. Students and parents alike will take pride in being here, and we will be described as a purposeful, hard-working and effective educational instruction by our community members and elected officials.

Additional Information

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

The students and staff at Pompano Beach Elementary School are on the move. We know what it will take to change our academic performance and are willing to take the difficult steps. We have established a very effective network of stakeholders called "Neighborhood United" whose sole purpose is to support the children of our community. With over 100 members of this grass-roots campaign, fundraising, volunteering, and social services has become a community responsibility.