



Executive Summary Template School Accreditation

2018-2019

The Executive Summary (ES) provides the school an opportunity to describe in narrative form its vision as well as strengths and challenges within the context of continuous improvement. Use this template to complete the responses to the various questions below. The responses should be brief, descriptive, and appropriate for the specific section. Transfer completed narratives into the corresponding sections of the Executive Summary found online in ASSIST.

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?

Lake Forest School is located in the southeast section of Broward County, close to the Miami-Dade County line just west of the I-95 corridor. The school was originally built in 1961 and services students living in both the West Park and Pembroke Park communities. The size of the building has been increased on three different occasions. Most recently, a new cafeteria/auditorium was added in the fall of 2006. The campus is comprised of 7 buildings and 11 portables, only 3 are presently being used for classes. It is set in among a neighborhood of single-family homes and several multi-unit apartments. The layout of the campus allows the STEM gardening program to utilize open areas for growing and maintenance of gardens.

The business community is made up mostly of “mom and pop” type establishments with a few regional or national franchises close by. The community members/families that attend our school are very transient. Even though Lake Forest celebrates a small core of multigenerational families that continue to attend our school, our mobility rate has gone as high as 42% in the past 5 years. Most of our 5th grade students transition into McNicol Middle and then onto Hallandale High School. The remaining students apply for magnet programs for middle school within Broward County or opt to attend a local charter school.

Approximately 700 students are enrolled in grades PreK-5. Lake Forest houses four different educational programs; 3-Head Start classes, 2-PreK ESE classes, 5-ASD (Autism, self-contained) classes and the general education classes for K-5. Lake Forest is a schoolwide Title I school with 97.1% of students qualifying for the Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Student demographics at Lake Forest are represented as follows; 70% African American, 2% Caucasian, and the other 2% divided among Asian, Multiracial, Native American or Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander and 27% are ethnically Hispanic. Our student body is comprised of 45% female and 55% male, 17.2% are ELL students and 19.3% are ESE/students with disabilities.

The faculty and staff include two administrators, 47 fulltime teachers, 3 full-time academic coaches (literacy, math and science), two ESE inclusion teachers, 20 teacher/classroom assistants, 3 support staff, and 3.5 clerical staff. A full-time school counselor works with students in the classroom, in small groups, and when appropriate/necessary meets with individual students. The instructional staff is comprised of 45% White, 40% African American and 15% Hispanic, 96% female teachers and 4% male. 100% of the teachers are highly qualified.

Lake Forest is a wonderful neighborhood school very proud of the tradition of engaging our students to enhance their learning and retention of material. We can show learning gains/growth from beginning of year to the end each school year using in-house assessments. The high poverty and mobile group of students that we serve is in dire need of a quality education. We have a dedicated teaching staff that cares about our children not just academically, but consistently tend to their social/emotional side as well.

The counselor along with many staff members, works with community businesses, organizations, churches, and individuals to provide meals for families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. These groups also provide Christmas presents for many of our students each year. Lake Forest often collaborate with agencies in the South Broward area to provide opportunities for parents and other community members to learn how to best help educate students in our area. We have a caring community partner (Stratton Home Charitable Foundation) that provides for many incentives for our Positive Behavioral Intervention Support (PBIS) program including but not limited to Kindle Fires and student laptops. Other community partners have also stepped up to provide time and financial assistance to students in all areas of their learning.

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 at Lake Forest Elementary School is to provide a stimulating and challenging learning environment that meets the needs of all students and enables them to reach their maximum potential. We believe that learning is a shared responsibility between all members of the Lake Forest learning community; students, teachers, parents, and community members. The mission statement has been a part of Lake Forest culture for almost 20 years. A committee of staff members and parents collaborated to ensure the wording of the mission statement incorporated all needs of the school and all its students.

Through the SSOS process (Student Success Opportunity School) Lake Forest parents, staff and community members identified three different areas in need of improvement; overall student literacy rates, behavior management, and engagement (students' increased engagement in their learning and overall increase in parent engagement). We continue to benefit from this process as the instructional program at Lake Forest stresses these three through the implementation of the Leveled Literacy Instruction program and the expanded leveled book room, Hero online behavior management program and Turnaround Arts Initiative supported by the Broward Center for the Performing Arts and the Kennedy Center. The three different initiatives address core knowledge in subject areas, promotion of social skills and character growth including but not limited to self-

Lake Forest School aims to provide, in partnership with parents, a quality education so that all pupils are able to reach their full potential within a caring, secure environment. In the past Lake Forest was enmeshed in rote learning and although at times we seemed successful, students' ability to apply what they were learning was sorely lacking. In the past few years, teachers have taken a more active approach in the construction of appropriate lessons and identification of individual student needs based on deficiencies and strengths.

The results of the most recent FCAT and FSA scores showed us that we have been experiencing a slow but steady decline since 2010. Most recently, our level of proficiency in the three main core content areas has experienced different measures of increase over the past three years.

- ELA: 15/16 - 26%, 16-17 – 37%, 17-18 – 42%
- Math: 15/16 - 41%, 16-17 – 52%, 17-18 – 51%
- Science: 15/16 - 20%, 16-17 – 24%, 17-18 – 22%

We implemented the LLI (Leveled Literacy Instruction program) as a multi targeted approach for literacy intervention. Based on the areas of deficiency, teachers also utilize Phonics 4 Reading and Wilson Foundations, Quick Reads among other research-based intervention programs. In addition, our teachers monitor progress through monthly cycle assessments. All of these are used to determine student progress and content retention. Students that are found to be lacking are provided interventions and if necessary, entered into our response to intervention (RtI) process. These students get additional targeted instruction time in math or reading/language arts.

PLCs are conducted twice a month first to analyze authentic student data and develop a plan to assist in student learning. Case managers attend the PLCs to provide guidance and address concerns brought up during the meetings.

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.

Lake Forest Elementary is the proud recipient of the Gold Level Model PBIS (Positive Behavior Intervention School) for the state of Florida. A Scholastic Oasis Reading room built through a collective effort from local business partners and law enforcement agencies. The Reading room is well stocked with over 1200 books of varying levels organized to meet the needs of students of varying reading levels. In order to capitalize on our attempts to improve our literacy rates we have implemented grade specific writing plans that allow teachers to take a more direct approach in teaching writing and had yielded improvement in monthly writing scores. We have received grants and awards from various organizations and agencies including but not limited to P3 Eco Challenge (winning yearly in various categories for our environmental studies). Lake Forest teachers have been recognized in various district newsletters for their best practices in RtI, integrated arts approach to learning and openness to provide district personnel with the opportunity to participate in various staff development at our school. Our drama club performed the Disney Musical Aladdin on the stage at Hallandale High School. This was the culminating activity for our arts program of learning the various components of theater integrating diction, fluency, public speaking as well as other academic skills. Our overarching goal is to provide students with a strong foundation in literacy and life skills through implementation of the Leveled Literacy Intervention, Turnaround Arts initiative, Hero behavior management system. Our specific academic goal to increase (over the next 2 years) our overall proficiency rate by 15% from the current year.

Additional Information

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

This is our fourth year in the Turnaround Arts initiative that provides the students at Lake Forest exposure to “Turnaround Artist” Carla Canales – mezzosoprano opera singer. Students are inspired by video clips she sends to identify places she travels and messages of encouragement. During her visits to the school, she works with students collaborating on lessons involving art, music literature as she shares her love of language and learning. This national initiative has evolved into a district supported resource for professional development in arts integration and various art/music supplies. Teachers are given common planning time to collaborate with teammates on improving instructional practices and creating new lessons integrating the new arts initiative. The district has created, in collaboration with the Broward Center for the Performing Arts, continuing professional development to help teachers implement these initiatives for a positive learning environment, which is conducive to personal growth and learning.