



Executive Summary

Sanders Park Elementary Magnet School

Broward County School District

Ms. Karen Nesbeth

800 N.W. 16th Street

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Pompano Beach, FL 33060

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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?

Sanders Park Elementary is located in Pompano Beach, Florida with 40% of its population being African American, 1% Asian or Pacific Islander, 2% Mixed Races, 5% Other, 52% White, 48% female and 52% male. 23% of the population holds a high school diploma or less. Currently (2015-2016) we have 568 students. Of those students about 90% of them are Black, 7% Hispanic and 2% White. In 2014-2015, there was a total of 569 students; 91% Black, 7.2% White, 6.7% Hispanic. In 2013-2014 there was a total of 568 student; 90% Black, 7% Hispanic, 8.3% White. The percentage of students receiving Free or Reduced Lunch has remained consistent at around 96% over the last three years.

Our faculty is composed of 69% Black, 28% White, and 1% Hispanic. The staff includes 76% Black, 5% Asian, 5% Hispanic, and 14% White.

There are several classes on each grade level, which includes three Pre-K classes, four 1st grade classes, four 2nd grade classes, four 3rd grade classes, four 4th grade classes, four 5th grade classes, three clusters for students with Intellectual Disabilities (IND). One of the 3 Pre-K classes was recently added this school year and serves exceptional students. In addition, two fourth and two fifth grade classes are departmentalized.

Some unique challenges include a majority of our students come from low-income families. In addition, we have experienced a high mobility rate. Student attendance is also a big challenge. Student absenteeism and tardiness hinders learning and results in the loss of instructional education time. Research shows that regular school attendance helps ensure students' academic success. Another challenge is a lack of parental involvement. For example, a majority of students arrive to school without their homework being completed. The school provides parental workshops and trainings, however there is low attendance even with variations in times. We feel that an increase in parental involvement would lead to students making higher grades, better test scores, and an increase in the graduation rates. Based on our school's initial data for incoming kindergarten students, it is evident that students lack early skills necessary for success in literacy. Therefore, it is vital that our parents become more involved and assist us in ensuring that our students attend school regularly.

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.

Through incorporating the resources of school, home, community and industry, Sanders Park Elementary Magnet School will work together in creating a school environment that will challenge each student to get the education necessary to be the best they can be, which will prepare them to meet the demands of living in a multicultural society.

Sanders Park Elementary is a Communications and Broadcasting Magnet School located in the northwest section of Pompano Beach. Our magnet program includes: Journalism & Broadcasting, Public Speaking & Debate, and Research. Through our Journalism program students use digital media to write and produce stories. In the Public Speaking and Debate academies, students develop speaking, listening, and writing skills. In addition, students conduct morning announcements, interviews, highlight school and community events in a professional state-of-the-art broadcast studio. Lastly, the research academy teaches students how to effectively use the research process and digital media to prepare for future careers. In addition to offering a high quality instructional program, we provide our students with numerous after school clubs to enhance their leadership qualities and social growth.

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.

Sanders Park Elementary has a lot to be proud of. These achievements include recognition for being 1 of 10 schools showing the largest increase in student proficiency in 3rd grade reading. In 2013-2014, our learning gains in reading for the lowest 25% was 89%. In Math, our learning gains for our lowest 25% was 84%. As a result, we were ranked number 60 in the state's overall SES Band.

We are also proud of our new Communications and Broadcast Journalism Magnet program that will go into effect during the 2016-2017 school year. This program will offer students a specialized curriculum that will include Debate/Public Speaking, Research/Technology, and Broadcast Journalism. This will allow students opportunities to focus their education on their interests.

During open enrollment, Sanders Park Elementary will seek students who will engage in collaborative ventures with a high degree of energy and dedication. In addition, we will encourage our advanced fifth grade students to complete virtual classes to receive middle school credits. Efforts will also encompass students joining our broadcasting team where they will work in a professional state-of-the-art broadcast studio and use digital technologies to create a variety of media.

In addition, our Communications and Broadcast journalism program will align with college and career readiness by introducing students to a variety of careers in the communications field. Students will also have hands on experiences and will attend exciting field trips. However, there are areas in need of improving. For instance, our last school year's FSA Reading data showed that only 30% of our students in grades 3-5 scored at a level 3 or above. In FSA Math, 48% of students scored a level 3 or above and in NGSSS 2.0 Science, 19% of students in grade 5 scored a level 3 or above. As a school, we are striving to increase proficiency in ELA, Math, and Science in grades 3-5 over the next three years.

Additional Information

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

Sanders Park Elementary school was recently rebranded into a Communications and Broadcast Journalism Magnet to attract a more diverse population. A ribbon cutting ceremony was held to commemorate this occasion. Invited guests included our Broward Schools Superintendent of the Year, community leaders, stakeholders and government officials.

We are also excited about the partnerships we have formed this year within our community. Our partners have been very instrumental in supporting our students and teachers in their quest to increase academic achievement. Last February, select students were invited guests at a Miami Midnites Semi-Professional basketball game where honor roll students were recognized and awarded during half-time. Members of our school's broadcast news team were also engaged in the live broadcast to showcase their talents.