



Executive Summary

Stephen Foster Elementary School

Broward County School District

Mr. Ricardo Grimaldo, Administrator
3471 S.W. 22nd Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33312

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?

Stephen Foster Elementary School is located in the Riverland neighborhood of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The school first opened its doors in 1961, so it is 54 years old. The neighborhood surrounding the school includes Caucasian, African-American, Hispanic and Latino families. Our current student enrollment is 682 students, from Pre-K to 5th grade. There are 360 boys and 322 girls. This includes three EBD special program classes, three Place classes and one Headstart class. Stephen Foster has 145 Students with Disabilities (SWD). Currently, 82% of the students are economically disadvantaged. There are currently 206 English Language Learners.

Our staff includes 39 teachers, 3 resource teachers and 13 paraprofessionals. 28 of our teachers are ESOL endorsed, 15 have advanced degrees, 5 are National Board certified, and 3 are reading endorsed. 34 have five or more years teaching experience.

Our barriers include second language acquisition and support for specialized programs to achieve academic success. Stephen Foster offers an after school Language Enrichment Camp to provide additional ELA to our ELL students. During the school day, push in groups and small group instruction is taking place to provide individualized instruction.

The SAC membership participates in our monthly meetings with 80% consistently attending. Our team has discussions and input from everyone is encouraged. We have many community business partners including McDonald's and Dunkin Donuts, who sponsor the honor roll breakfasts and Kid of Character celebrations. Our school has partnered with the community to fundraise for Jump Rope for Heart (American Heart Association), and Relay for Life (American Cancer Society).

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.

Educating today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world is Broward School's mission statement. Our school is committed to teach every student to meet their maximum potential. Stephen Foster has created a structure to allow students to have authentic learning experiences. In ELA, we use the Daily 5 structure with the integration of Conceptual Units focused on the LAFS Standards with support from the CAFE strategies. During Math, we use the Daily 3 structure to teach the MAFS standards. We have many clubs after school including: Art, Journalism, Steam Team, Fitness, and Drama.

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.

Our school uses the continuous improvement model for Reading, Math, Writing, and Science. For three years, our school has been writing our own curriculum using the Understanding by Design format. At the same time, we transitioned to using the Daily 5 program and CAFÉ strategies for ELA. In addition, we have written scaffolded lessons to teach the Florida standards. We are very excited that next year we will have a dual language learning program beginning in Kindergarten. Each year, an additional grade level will be implementing the program. For 2012-2013 and 2013-2014 FCAT, we earned a "C" grade because of our exceptional learning gains. For 2014-2015 FSA, we earned a "D" grade which was only based on proficiency. We are working hard to improve this grade by looking at last year's FSA data and identifying areas of strengths and weaknesses to focus on. Our goal is for each student to increase their ELA and Math performance on the FSA by at least one step or level. For the Science FCAT, the goal is for at least 50% to score a Level 3 or higher.

Additional Information

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

Professional Learning Communities (PLC) are continually changing to meet the needs of the staff and the students. This is a process in which teachers work together and use students' data to create strategies to improve classroom practices. We have team leader week in August to map out our plans for the school year. Also, each month we have a Leadership Day. Our school has Response to Intervention (RTI) which uses student academic and behavior information to identify students with learning and behavior needs to guarantee that those in danger of failure and/or retention are receiving assistance and support. We have numerous community partners including Lawler, White & Murphey Trial Lawyers. They provide backpacks and school supplies for students in need and food for the community food bank. La Costa Restaurant does faculty appreciation luncheons. Tropical Acres Restaurant sponsors two classrooms and they donate goods for PTO events. We have parent and community events including: McDonald's Night, Barnes & Noble Night, Pete's-A-Place business partnership, Chuck-E-Cheese Parent community events, Spaghetti Dinner & Art Show, Book Fair, Spring Fling, After Care Talent Show, and Winter Concerts.