

**Executive Summary**

Plantation Elementary School

Broward County Public Schools

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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?

Plantation Elementary School is located in Plantation Florida off of State Road Seven. Approximately 620 students are enrolled in grades Pre-K-5. Plantation Elementary is nestled in an urban community school attempting to meet the many needs of our students. The faculty and staff include two administrators, fifty fulltime teachers, ten instructional assistants, two clerks, and an office manager/confidential secretary. The school was originally built in 1968. The front of the school has been restructured to adhere to one point entry for visitors.

The school is fairly new with an excellent facility for students, faculty, and staff. The school added 2 ASD classrooms in 2017 – 2018, with students in grade K and 1. The school has 2 administrators who have been at the school for 3 years.

Plantation Elementary has fifty instructional staff, which consists of thirty-six classroom teachers, four special area teachers, 1 primary and 1 intermediate Reading coach, a math coach, a science coach, STEM resource teacher, a magnet coordinator, an ESE Specialist, Guidance Counselor, an Autism Coach (50%)Speech teacher and one reading interventionist specialist. Twenty percent of the staff is male and 40% holds a master’s degree or higher. According to the State report 94% of the teachers are highly qualified.

Plantation Elementary has 639 students from PK-5, 88 % Blacks, 6% Hispanic, 6% whites, 1.1% multi-racial, 99% free or reduced lunch. Plantation Elementary is a Title 1 school.

A unique feature of Plantation Elementary includes strong community volunteers and partnerships. The YMCA, 21st CCLC, the Women's Club of Plantation, Plantation General Hospital, the City Council, The Chamber of Commerce and many local businesses have donated time, services and materials to the school. We face many challenges as we serve both our city and a neighboring community. Currently parent involvement is low, which affects student achievement. We have made efforts in outreach to build parent partnerships with both parents and community partners. We will host a Principal's Chat-Parent Field Trip to the African American Library to increase student achievement through parent involvement and engagement. This activity will help us increase involvement at the school.

# 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.

Mission Statement:

The mission at Plantation Elementary School is to provide the best learning environment for each child in order to develop his/her highest level of achievement. Through their education at school, students will gain the skills, strategies, and desire necessary for continued learning. They will also develop a strong sense of responsibility for themselves and toward each other, and their community.

Vision Statement

At Plantation Elementary we believe that all students can learn when the appropriate learning style of the child is considered. At Plantation Elementary differentiated instruction is the way in which a teacher anticipates and responds to a variety of student needs in the classroom. To meet student needs, teachers differentiate by modifying the content (what is being taught), the process (how it is taught), and the product (how students demonstrate their learning).

Learning is a shared responsibility between students, teachers, parents, and community members. Superseding this belief is the desire to provide a safe and orderly environment providing the platform for learning.

Plantation Elementary curriculum is geared towards meeting the needs of all students. In addition to the district curriculum, the students have access to supplemental researched based material geared towards target skill instruction and increased student achievement.

The instructional program stresses core knowledge in subject areas and promotion of social skill development, character growth, and self- responsibility.

Meeting the individual needs of each student is a key element in the program. Teachers create a positive learning environment, which is conducive to personal growth and learning. We set high expectations for our students both academically and socially. A full time school counselor works with students in the classroom, in groups, and with individuals. Our Magnet Coordinator works with community businesses, organizations, churches, and individuals to provide resources and support to all stakeholders including but not limited to providing meals for families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

Participation in after school activities is also encouraged, the Music teacher sponsors a chorus and step team after school and the Science Coach facilitates the SECME club. Florida International University (FIU) Engineering Department partners with the school. They provide teacher assistants to mentor and supporting students in engineering.

# 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.

Many positive changes occurred over the last three years that have affected the school wide program. Plantation Elementary became a Magnet School in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in 2014. The school has experienced a shift toward providing more rigorous focused instruction that is aligned with current data. Plantation Elementary became a 21st Century Community Learning Center. Sustaining and accelerating academic achievement by providing ongoing support and training for educational leaders will guarantee that our students receive a quality education. Teachers are committed to employing researched based educational strategies and techniques to promote higher order and critical thinking skills. All classrooms are equipped with the latest technology, such as one to one in intermediate grades and one to five laptops ratio, Promethean boards, and Active expressions and computers that enhance teachers' instructions to better prepare our students for the 21st century.

Plantation Elementary participated in Broward County initiative the Digital 5 program. Fifth grade students and teachers are utilizing laptops, digital resources, online instructional materials and other learning tools to maximize student learning. In addition, through receiving additional laptop carts, every fourth grade student has their own laptop.

An area in which improvement is necessary at Plantation Elementary is to engage parents in the school community. At the beginning of the school year a decision was made to be visible in all areas of the school community ie.(home owner association meeting, local business, and community support groups). In addition, Plantation Elementary has initiated a Principal's Chat/Parent field trip. This event encompasses parents coming out to enjoy a field trip to various venues that discuss the importance of parent participation in the school community and learn several student center activities they can do at home with their child.

The primary focus is student achievement. As a result, Plantation Elementary is looking to make progress in the academic arena. In the short term, learning gains in reading and math are our primary focus. We have been monitoring student progress throughout the year in reading and math to ensure that our students show growth during the school year. We increased our school grade from a D to a C. We made gains science, math and ELA. In science we increased from 14 percent proficiency to 36 percent. In math we increased from 42% to 48% proficiency. For ELA we increased from 35% to 40% proficiency. We have implemented reading and math programs and teacher professional development focused on increasing student achievement. In mathematics, we have implemented the Acaletics program, which covers the Florida Standards and mirrors the FSA assessment questions. Student achievement as increased from 37% to 67% since using this program. Our student achievement in reading has increased substantially as measured by the i-Ready diagnostic assessment.

# Additional Information

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

Plantation Elementary conducts two Museum Nights during the school year. Our Museum Nights included students reciting poetry; showcasing math or science projects and presenting class or group projects. Plantation's Museum Nights also encompass several local businesses that donated food and entertainment for all.