



Executive Summary

Wingate Oaks Center

Broward County School District

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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?

Wingate Oaks Center is a self-contained, Exceptional Student Education (ESE) public day school located in an urban setting within the Broward County School District, servicing students with Intellectual Disabilities from Kindergarten to age 22. Wingate Oaks Center serves students with multiple cognitive and physical impairments, many of whom are on the Autism Spectrum. Along with intellectual delays, a number of students have additional challenges such as vision, hearing and gross/fine motor loss. A majority of the population is non-verbal, and those who do have spoken language have limited vocabularies. Instruction must be delivered in a highly structured, organized and adapted setting, with continual supervision to assist with student participation and personal safety during behavioral outbursts, which occur often. Many students have more than one disability, thus specialized curriculum, unique learning materials and adaptations are necessary for instruction. Academic benchmarks are taught through differentiated instruction, capitalizing on individual interests, competencies and ability levels. In addition to content instruction, adaptive Art and P.E. are part of the curriculum, with significant modifications to accommodate the functioning level of each student. There are eight classrooms where all academic subjects are taught, with a staff to student ratio of 1:3, to meet the individual needs of each student and ensure safety.

The Assistant Principal at Wingate Oaks Center has 12 years of administrative experience with the school. Other leadership positions include the Exceptional Student Education / Behavior Specialist. A Speech and Language Pathologist, Physical and Occupational Therapists, Nurses, and a Social Worker provide support for students, families, and classroom instruction. Wingate Oaks Center has ten teachers, two of whom are Nationally Board Certified. Each classroom is assisted by two highly-qualified paraprofessionals and behavior technicians as needed.

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.

The mission of Wingate Oaks Center is to: "Teaching the skills for life to open a world of possibilities." We believe in providing a positive learning environment to enhance each students sense of identity, self-worth, and individual potential; that high expectations lead to positive growth and that all our students have a valuable contribution to make to society. We believe in open lines of communication between parents, staff, and school and that all efforts should be directed toward assuring that each student will become a more independent member of society and so it is the goal of the staff and community to provide a positive learning environment so each student should will able to live a productive and fulfilling life within the community.

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.

We build upon our accomplishments and strive to maintain or exceed them. They include:

- . Ranked FIRST in Math amongst all InD Centers in the State of Florida!!!
- . Ranked FIRST amongst InD Centers in Broward County in Reading and Math
- . Partnership of the Year Finalist
- . Golden School Award
- . Multiple Impact Award Grant Recipients
- . Just Do It...I Did District Award Winner
- . Assistive Technology Award
- . Recycling Award
- . Special Olympics State Champions
- . Unsung Hero Award, Adults with Disabilities
- . Wingate Aftercare, Agency of the Year
- . Educator of the Year, Broward County Disability Award
- . Outstanding Facility Inspection
- . SIP used as Center Model for the State
- . P3 Environmental District School, Teacher and Student Awards
- . Go Green District 1st Place Award
- . Broward Arts Teacher of the Year

All of the programming we provide our students is data driven and research based. We deliver instruction aligning with state standards and our students are evaluated academically weekly using student specific assessments and annually using the Florida Standards Alternate Assessment. Wingate Oaks' student centered programs for significantly cognitively delayed learners provide direct instruction for real world, real life skills, and experiences within the school campus and the community. Our classrooms, Lifeskills Laboratory, and community-based instruction afford our students the opportunity to learn these skills in their natural environments.

Each student attending Wingate Oaks Center is provided a comprehensive support team including:

- Classroom Teacher
- Two paraprofessionals
- Autism / Curriculum Coach
- Behavior / ESE specialist
- Adapted Art Instruction
- Adapted PE Instruction
- Administrative Support

Students who require related services of Speech and Language, Occupational and Physical Therapy will also have additional members on their support teams. Each of these individuals' plays a vital role in the development of the intensive programming needs of each of our significantly cognitively impaired students. Each student has an Individualized Educational Plan that addresses their current level of performance, as well as educationally relevant goals and objectives. Curriculum is provided on grade level through extensive weekly and

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monthly mapping of content. Data is collected, reviewed, and changes are made accordingly with the team members to ensure appropriate growth within academic content, behavior, communication, and level of independence is continuous and appropriate. Home notes are utilized daily by both the school and the families to encourage ongoing open communication. Teachers use a common method for assigning grades that is clearly defined and shared with our families.

Additional Information

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

With the use of state of the art assistive technology, our students participate in activities emphasizing academics, communication, activities of daily living, social and vocational skills. Our highly qualified and dedicated staff is unique in that they are provided with training, coaching, and mentoring while delivering instruction daily. The research and learning is seamless for the students, faculty, and staff at Wingate Oaks Center. Our belief is that all students can learn!

Effective communication is essential to ensure learning gains. The mission for communication at Wingate Oaks Center School is to enhance student communication by providing continuous opportunities throughout the school day. The results of effective communication are demonstrated by continuous Individualized Education Plan (IEP) progress for all students. Our Speech Therapist provides services to verbal and nonverbal students by addressing expressive and receptive language customized to the individual. Augmentative communication such as voice output devices and picture exchange systems along with a multi modality approach are infused throughout the school day.

Appropriate behavior is also an essential component of the learning process. The vision statement for effective positive behavioral support at Wingate Oaks is to enhance the quality of life for all students by providing a comprehensive system of behavioral support. The focus is on prevention of inappropriate behavior and teaching students and adults by structuring the environment, practicing, and reinforcing expected behaviors. We believe in a team-based approach that is proactive and respects the dignity of all the consumers at Wingate Oaks Center. In addition, school, family, and community members are encouraged to participate in each of the levels of support, so as to create a set of environments that are responsible and consistent. PBS is a data driven system. Its development is based on empirically validated methods of teaching expected behaviors and working with problem behaviors. As a result, objective information will be continuously gathered on a regular basis to evaluate the effectiveness of the plan.

Wingate Oaks Center support staff and leadership teams are committed to providing the students with the highest quality of services daily. Support team members work directly with families providing access to community resources such as respite care, medical and social services, advocacy groups, transition planning as well as the guardianship process for students entering adulthood. Wingate Oaks Center is unique in that the team will identify, locate and provide services to foster complete integration of students into their communities.

All of these strategies ensure that all students at Wingate Oaks Center do learn and their lives are "open a world of possibilities!"