



# **Executive Summary**

**Pines Middle School**

**Broward County School District**

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# 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?**

Pines Middle School's current demographics for the 2015-2016 school year includes 1104 students with various ethnicities such as:

540 Blacks or 49% 395 Hispanics or 36% 116 White or 9% 37 Asian or 3%

11 Indian or 1% 143 SWD or 13% 103 ELL or 9% 49 Multi-Cultural or 4%

848 on Free and Reduced Lunch or 77%

Our female population is 549 (49%) students and our male population is 555 (51%) students.

Our ethnic demographic percentages have remained fairly constant over the past three years with the exception of a 4% decrease in Hispanics. Our FRL percentage has increased 7% from 70% in 2013. Our enrollment has declined by about 260 students in the past three years due to the opening of 5+ charter schools in our proximity. These schools have been pulling disproportionately from our proficient population and holding onto and attracting these students back is our biggest challenge.

Our staff is just as diverse with many ethnic backgrounds that represent our student population.

Our community is representative of the student population within a dynamic area that has experienced various changes due the economy and housing market over the years.

## **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.**

Pines Middle School Mission Statement:

The mission of Pines Middle School is to create a safe, creative, learning environment maintained through an atmosphere of positive reinforcement, respect, and understanding which will enable all students to develop to their fullest potential as independent learners. The faculty and staff are committed to offering a variety of programs that will meet the needs of the many sectors of the community that it serves.

Pines Middle uses a Positive Behavior Plan (ROAR) to teach behavioral expectations and our peer counselors work with students to provide a safe learning environment. Our clubs and electives (listed in other sections) especially Illustrators, Debate, Instability, and Leadership offer opportunities for creativity; as do our real-world curriculum performance tasks. Continual progress monitoring and research proven strategies are used in all contents to enable students to reach mastery in their core content.

## **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.**

Pines Middle School challenges all of our students with a curriculum that is rigorous and relevant at each student's academic achievement level. A third of our students now come to us far below proficiency levels in Math and Reading and we scaffold learning to bring students to proficiency. To overcome this obstacle we have created a STEM elective to scale up Science and Math. We use Achieve3000 schoolwide to raise student lexile levels. We have adjusted our curriculum camps from Saturdays to after school to meet the needs of our students and parents. In 2013 Pines Middle received an award from the East Coast Technical Center for "Exceeding Expectations in Student Achievement".

To challenge our proficient students we offer:

- GEM Math Geometry
- Algebra Spanish 1
- Debate Microsoft IT Academy
- Jazz Band Symphonic Band
- Peer Counseling

In the past three years, Pines has added electives that enrich students' academic and social/emotional growth. These courses help fill in the gaps our students come to us with:

**STEM:** a project based course where students use critical thinking skills, and reinforce Math and Science Concepts. Students participate in the SECME County-wide competition through BCS STEM Department.

**GOODYEAR PARTNERSHIP:** Our students have the opportunity to explore aviation. This is also part of our STEM program.

**DEBATE:** As a first-year partner of the Broward Schools Debate Initiative, the Panther Speech & Debate Team competes in after-school tournaments. The students have medaled in many of the competitions. 8 of our students have earned the right to compete Nationally in Utah.

**SLDC:** Our Leadership Students compete against other middle schools in Marching and Physical Fitness. Students learn leadership and citizenship skills to become responsible young adults.

**TV Production:** Our students learn the ins and outs out multimedia programs and are responsible for producing both our yearbook and morning broadcasts. We have a unique program where our SVE students work with general education students in the class.

**Physical Fitness:** Our Athletic Director has teamed up with the Miami Heat to create a Personal Fitness program for our Athletes and PE students.

## **Additional Information**

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

Pines is very proud of its FREE morning tutoring program that is available to all students. Math and Science teachers tutor an hour before school on Tuesday mornings and Social Studies, Language Arts, and Reading teachers tutor on Thursday morning.

Pines offers the following activities that will allow students to become well-rounded individuals and a vital member of the community through charitable and community events:

- TV Production Yearbook First Priority Bible Club
- Student Government National Junior Honor Society
- Florida Future Educators
- Math Club Peer Counseling Sustainability Club
- Jazz Band Symphonic Band Illustrator's Club
- Reading Revolution Glee Club Writers Club
- Relay for Life Anti Defamation League No Place for Hate school
- Harvest Drive MLK Parades Daniel's Dash
- Making Strides Against Breast Cancer Autism Speaks Walks
- Special Olympics Nova Southeastern Doctors Anti-Smoking Partnership