



# **Executive Summary**

**Flamingo Elementary School**

**Broward County Public Schools**

Mrs. Janice Crosby, Principal  
1130 S.W. 133rd Avenue  
Davie, FL 33325

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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?**

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Flamingo Elementary was built in 1972 in Davie, Florida. Davie is a unique community with a distinct western-equestrian flavor. It is a very diverse area both economically and culturally; the students in the school reflect the diversity of the community. There is a strong sense of history, tradition, and stability surrounding this school. Many students have parents who also attended the school; many faculty and staff members have worked in the school for decades.

Currently, there are six hundred seventy-one students enrolled in grades Pre-Kindergarten to 5. In accordance with district policy student-teacher ratios are 1:18 in primary grades and 1:22 in intermediate grades. The demographics are as follows: 27.3% White; 6.7% Black; 58% Hispanic; 0.2% Pacific Islander; 1% Indian; 3.1% Multi; and 3.7% Asian; 62% of students qualify for the Free and Reduced Lunch program. The Average Daily Attendance is 95.4%.

The administration consists of the principal and an assistant principal. There are thirty-five classroom teachers, four special area teachers, a Literacy Coach, a Math Coach, a Guidance Counselor, an Exceptional Student Education Specialist/Varying Exceptionality Teacher, a Speech/Language Pathologist, and a part-time Varying Exceptionality Teacher. Eighteen staff members have Masters Degrees, one has a degree beyond the Masters level; and three are National Board Certified. There are approximately 6 classes in each grade, there are 2 grade levels with a dual language program, and there is one gifted and high achieving class per grade level. The school has four Special subjects on a four day rotation schedule. The special subjects include Art, Media, Physical Education, and Science.

The school uses the Florida State Standards as the basis for its curriculum at each grade level. Instructional delivery and resources are aligned to the standards. Teachers attend monthly Professional Learning Communities to develop standards-driven differentiated lessons, determine appropriate instructional resources, and analyze formative and summative assessments.

There are currently 136 (20%) students who are eligible for Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services. The Flamingo Elementary ESE department provides the following services to our students: pull-out resource; push-in resource; and consultation. ESE teachers provide services to students with the following exceptionalities: Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD); Emotional/Behavioral Disability (EBD); Orthopedically Impaired (OI); Physically Impaired - Other Health Impaired (OHI); Specific Learning Disability (SLD); and Speech/Language Disability (S/L). Related services are provided by itinerant teachers for: Family Counseling; Occupational Therapy; and Physical Therapy. Gifted services are also provided in Gifted/High Achieving Classes by teachers who have the Gifted Endorsement.

Flamingo Elementary has 197 (29%) students who are English Language Learners (ELL's). A classroom assistant is assigned to work with identified students in English Language Arts (ELA) in push-in and pull-out models. Teachers use English Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) strategies with their ELL students.

Technology is infused throughout the curriculum and has increased over the past few years. All classes in Grades 3 to 5 have Lenovo Carts with 22 laptops in each; all classes in Grade 3 have 5 Lenovo Laptops in each classroom; all classes in Grades 1 and 2 have 4 Lenovo Laptops in each classroom; all Kindergarten classes have 4 Apple desktops; in addition, there are 10 Lenovo laptops for back up when a computer is out for repair and there are 10 iPads that teachers may check out at any time. There are 40 Promethean Boards and 40

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Flamingo Elementary School is committed to increasing parent involvement. Open Houses are widely attended, however, increasing the percentage of parents in attendance for events such as Academic Nights, Kindergarten Round-Ups, School Advisory Council Meetings, and Math Nights is an on-going challenge that the school's staff continually works to address.

Another challenge that has faced the school are facilities issues; the school has been plagued with poor roofing over the years, last year a portion of the facilities received a roof-replacement. This school year the main building is slated to also have a full roof-replacement that has involved many classroom moves; completion of this project is scheduled for October 2016.

To conclude this section on a positive note, it must be added that the school has a School Advisory Council (SAC) that oversees the School Improvement Plan. The school also has a very active Parent Teacher Organization that sponsors many fund-raising activities each year; events/activities include the Tech Trot, Extreme Event, and the Book Fair to name a few. Additionally, the school has 255 approved volunteers and the school has been awarded the Golden School Volunteer Award each year. The school is in partnerships with the local Publix Supermarket, Dairy Queen, Dunkin' Donuts, Anchor Church, and Papa John's Pizza. Lastly, in addition to all of the above, Flamingo Elementary provides an on-site before, after-school, and summer camp academy that services 160 students.

## **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.**

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The mission of the school is to provide a safe and secure environment where a foundation of skills is built to ensure each student has developed good character and the knowledge to achieve success in all endeavors. The school's belief statements are as follows:

- To foster an environment that allows students to learn within a safe haven academically, emotionally, physically, and socially.
- To maintain frequent and meaningful communication between home and school in order to keep parents informed of the learning process and how it affects their children.
- To allow students the opportunity to make decisions and to accept the responsibilities for those decisions.
- To instill in students an appreciation for diversity of all cultures.
- To ensure that all students are exposed to the latest technology that emphasizes critical skills, creative thinking, cooperation and the ability to seek out information.

In keeping with our mission, Literacy is a major area of focus at Flamingo Elementary School. Our Literacy program is comprised of various crucial components to ensure all our students meet or exceed standards. To accomplish this, school wide programs include push in and pull out models to individually meet the learning needs of each individual student. Students receiving services include students in the bottom quintile, English Language Learner Students (ELL), Exceptional Students Education (ESE) students, and students in the Response to Intervention (RtI) program. Research based materials and strategies are used during small groups and individual instruction to target student weaknesses and build upon student strengths. In addition to meeting student needs through small group and individual instruction, the teachers and literacy coach at Flamingo meet regularly in learning communities and during professional development sessions to plan effective literacy lessons that utilize appropriate and high interest materials for whole group lessons. The coach and classroom teachers use the core reading program and other research based materials such as Story Works and Informational magazines such as National Geographic to provide instruction. Classroom teachers and the literacy coach continually reflect on their teaching practices to make ongoing growth to their instructional delivery. A reading IFC was created to correlate with monthly School City Assessments, to help teachers identify specific ELA standards needing additional instruction. The teachers and coach also provide feedback to the students on a regular basis, so the students can track their learning progress and monitor their growth as well.

The acquisition and application of Mathematics, is also a major focus at this school in accordance with our mission. As with Literacy, the Math Program at this school is comprised of various and crucial components to ensure that students meet or exceed Florida standards. The instructional deliveries for math include in-class whole group, small group instruction (centers in grades K-2), and pull-out and push-in models. The Instructional foci for math include activities to increase problem-solving comprehension and math fluency at each grade level. The coach and classroom teachers use the core math program but supplement with the district's Elementary Learning Canvas site, for district-created lesson plans, and differentiated center activities to ensure standards are being taught. Additionally a Math IFC was created to correlate with monthly School City Assessments, to help teachers identify specific Math standards needing additional instruction.

To further ensure that all of the students at Flamingo Elementary meet or exceed state standards and to ensure that all students are successful, the school runs a highly efficient Response to Intervention (RtI) program that has so far serviced 171 students this past school year. Components of the RtI program include weekly meetings with teachers, parents, and RtI Team members, identification and targeted

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interventions aligned to deficiencies in reading, math, and/or behavior, and subsequent meetings following implementation of interventions to gauge student progress and determine next steps. Response to Intervention (RtI) meetings are scheduled on a weekly basis. Teachers refer students in need of interventions for academics and/or behavior. The team comprises of school administration, school counselor, Literacy Coach, Math Coach, school psychologist, school social worker, teacher and parents. The team reviews the student data that is presented and determines if Tier II or Tier III interventions are needed. The team identifies the problem and discuss appropriate interventions and progress monitoring tools. The team re-meets after six weeks to review the student data and determine if the intervention is being successful or if additional interventions need to be explored. Parents are an important part of the process and are welcome at RtI meetings. Finally, Affective Education is also a major focus this school as we strive meet the emotional and social needs of our students. The school's guidance counselor meets with students regularly and conducts classroom guidance lessons. This past school year, a child safety component was added that by all accounts has met with much success. This school year Flamingo was able to receive the Kid-Safe Foundation Child Safety Lessons through a grant obtained by the Kid-Safe Foundation. All Kindergarten, First and Second grade students participated in the 8 week program which teaches important safety topics. Teachers received an hour long training on the warning signs of abuse and neglect. Parents were also educated about the safety program and how to help teach their children to be safe.

## **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.**

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Actual comparison data is difficult to ascertain due to the statewide change over to the Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) from the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) however, student achievement at Flamingo Elementary has been consistently above the mean over the past three years. Since the district's use of the Socio-Economic (SES) Band model that compares schools with similar demographics to each other, the proficiency scores for the students at this school placed them in the top third of the twelve schools in the band for both reading and math based on the FSA. Additionally, the scores of our third grade students put them in first place within SES Band in Reading.

In the 2016 and 2017 school years, students at this school scored 66, 63, 56 and 54, 62, 57 in Reading, and 70, 75, 65 and 54, 62, and 57 Math, respectively as determined by the FSA. In the 2015 school year, the students at this school scored 66, 71, and 55 in English Language Arts (ELA), Math, and Science, respectively as determined by the FSA. Overall, Math proficiency scores were higher in 2016 than 2017, due to targeted Math Improvement Strategies such as the wholesale use of the "Plan, Understand, Solve Check" model and Math Fluency small group instruction; in the 2015 school year in addition to the aforementioned, a Math Coach was hired to enhance Staff Development and model lessons in Math to continue the upward trend.

An Item Analysis of the FSA showed the following content areas are a focus for increased student achievement in the 2015 school year.

-English/LA - Integration of Knowledge and Ideas Cluster (50% in Grade 3, 46% in Grade 4, and 58% in Grade 5)

-English/LA - Writing (50% in Grades 4 and 5), with 72% for Language and Editing tasks in Grade 3

-Math Fluency (Level 3 or Above in 56% in Grade 3 and 57% in Grade 4 Number and Operations in fractions, and 45% Operations in Algebra, Number and Base Ten Fractions in Grade 5)

The school will continue to strive to have all students meet or exceed standards in English Language Arts, Mathematics and Science over the next three years. A comparison of the Spring, 2017 FSA data with 2018 data showed the following: The current Grade 5 group of students had a 2% percentage point increase in ELA scores and an 17% percent decline in Math scores. The current Grade 4 group of students had a 1% decline in ELA scores and an 7% increase in Math. 2018 FSA math data shows grade 5 students proficiency in math is 45% compared to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade proficiency of the same group of students at 62% in 2017. We are addressing the gaps in the following ways:

-BSA Data was analyzed in PLC's in terms of Item Analysis and class by class percentages of students at mastery, proficiency, satisfactory, and needs improvement. Instructional Focus calendars with monthly School City Assessments analyzing standards are being implemented, with data analyzed at monthly PLC meetings.

-Lowest 33% report of students was shared with Team Leaders - a check was made to ensure all students in that group are receiving RtI interventions in Reading and/or Math, and are entered into BASIS identifying Tier 1 strategies in use.

-Intervention Reading and Math small groups are continuing - students may be added as needed.

-Teachers are working on providing specific feedback to students and having students set goals for increased success in standards instruction

-Teachers are working on helping students curtail common mistakes.

-Our teachers have been working on our Integration of Knowledge and Ideas, Math Fluency, and Writing.

-Using the Florida Standards Assessment site, tests have been created by the Literacy and Math coaches to provide our students with more opportunities to work in weaker cluster areas.



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## **Additional Information**

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

There are many traditions at Flamingo Elementary School of which we are very proud. Some of these unique Flamingo traditions include: Our Grade 1 students attending the Bergeron Rodeo yearly; our Olympics Program coordinated by our Physical Education Teacher whereby each class represents a country and students compete for the Olympic Gold, Silver, and Bronze medals; our Grade 4 students put on a Wax Museum where they give biographic information about famous people; our Grade 5 students visit Junior Achievement's Biz Town each school year to authentically engage in personal and professional life skills; and we also have a publishing center, known as Pinky's Press where students can write stories and poems for publication.

Flamingo Elementary has an exemplary Art Program due the efforts of the Art Teacher. Said teacher was awarded the Broward County Visual Arts Teacher of the Year for 2014 - 2015. In addition, to providing an award-winning Art Program, this teacher also introduced the concept of the Outdoor Classroom to our students. Several grants have been awarded over the past few years to get the outdoor classroom off the ground. Grants were provided from the City of Davie, Broward Farm Bureau and Whole Foods Market "Whole Kids Foundation." With the grant funds a ten unit hydroponic garden was developed. The garden is a place where our students can observe, create art, enjoy the beauty of nature, as well as get some quality outdoor time. Organic carrots, spinach, gourmet lettuce varieties, artichokes, eggplants, tomatoes, mint, basil, and melons are some of the vegetables that have grown in the outdoor classroom garden. The art teacher also has a butterfly garden that has been certified as a National Wildlife Foundation Habitat.

In addition to the Safety Program, Art Program, Flamingo Elementary has an outstanding After-School Care Program with many areas of excellence. The program was in first place for Web and Mobile games in Dimension U.

There are five extra-curricular activity clubs which are Student Council, Teachers of the Future, Ecology, Media, and Safety Patrol. Our Student Council collected \$2091.60 for UNICEF in 2017-2018 and launched a successful service project to donate items for sheltered dogs and cats.

We, at Flamingo Elementary School, are also very proud of Parent/Teacher Organization that sponsors successful fundraisers each year, our Partners in Education for their donations to our school, and our outstanding volunteer program that has enabled us to be the recipients of the Golden School Award for the past thirty-five years. Flamingo Elementary is wonderful school!