



# **Executive Summary**

**Park Springs 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?**

Park Springs Elementary located in Coral Springs currently has 961 students. Our school population consists of 12% English Language Learners (ELL), 19% are Exceptional Student Education (ESE) and 43% are on Free and Reduced Lunch (FRL). Park Springs has a large ESE Special Program including (5) Pre-K ESE Classes and (5) Autism Special Program Classes. Our demographics are as follows: 54.2% Female, 45.8% Male, 40% White, 23% Black, 6% Asian, 5% Multiracial, and 26% Hispanic. Over the last few years our enrollment has continued to grow even with the opening of surrounding Charter schools, which was an enrollment challenge several years ago. Park Springs has a very active parent volunteer base and supportive Parent-Teacher-Organization. Park Springs was the recipient of the 5- Star School Award for the 2016-2017 school year. In addition, Park Springs works closely with various community partners, including the YMCA. Park Springs operates an Aftercare Program and has over 300 students in the program. Park Springs has 111 staff members, 71 instructional staff members and 38 non-instructional. We have 42 teachers that have 10 years or more experience and 29 that have less than 10. This allows us to provide additional differentiated instruction and support, so that the needs of those students are met. The changes in the needs of our students are occurring quicker than the fixed mindset of only a few teachers. To remedy that, we are continuously providing Professional Learning Community opportunities to any teachers that might feel that they need help keeping an open mindset, to stay abreast with the rapid changes in standards as well as the changes in the needs of our 21st Century learners.

## **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.**

Our vision statement for the 2017-18 school year continues to be "Park Springs will provide rigorous, standards-based instruction to meet the needs of 21st Century Learners while supporting the social and emotional growth of our students". This vision statement encompasses our values at Park Springs. In addition, our mission for the students at PSE is to "Perceive It, Believe It and Achieve It." We encourage our children to strive to be the very best that they can be in everything that they do. Our focus continues to be on ensuring that we are delivering standards-based instruction in all grade levels. This is evident in all areas including our grade-level team planning, common performance tasks, formative assessments and project-based learning. In addition, our focus this year has been to consistently provide both intervention or enrichment opportunities daily for all students. This strategic scheduling component allows us to differentiate instruction and provide instruction to increase student achievement. Park Springs also supports the social/emotional growth of our students through Kid of Character, guidance groups, mentoring opportunities, extracurricular programs and after school clubs. This year Park Springs received the first phase of the SMART Bond Money to purchase 435 new devices for both students and staff which created a 3:1 ratio for technology. Our current 4th and 5th grade students each have their own device to use in class daily. In addition, Park Springs communicates through various modalities of technology such as Remind, Twitter, and Facebook. Our teachers develop projects that allow for students to utilize different software programs. One thing we are very proud of at Park Springs Elementary is our positive school culture. The staff works very hard to ensure that we continue to provide high quality instruction, while supporting the social and emotional needs of our children. When you walk through the doors of Park Springs you will feel like part of the family. Often times, new members of our staff and substitute teachers will comment on how welcoming our school is to newcomers and the community. In addition, we believe this is a strong testament of why we have so many families who choose to come to here on reassignment, and that speaks volumes!

## **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.**

Park Springs has been recognized as an "A" school for the past 15 years. This has been a huge accomplishment with the changes to the standards and cut scores within the last 3 years. Historically, Park Springs has demonstrated notable achievement in the area of Learning Gains. In 2012-13, 71% of our students demonstrated Learning Gains in Reading. The following school year, 72% of our students demonstrated Learning Gains in Math. For the current year, we are focused on ensuring that our students are demonstrating Learning Gains, as determined by the new DOE Grading Formula. At Park Springs, we are committed to authentic, standards-based instruction and we are proud of the strides that we have been making in this area. Through our Professional Learning Communities, we are focusing on unwrapping the each of the standards at every grade level. We have developed performance tasks and assessments that align with each standard, and we have also been busy creating Learning Goals and Scales to match each standard. Our school has attended many professional developments in the area of Learning Goals and Scales, as this is part of a school-wide initiative. Learning Goals and Scales continue to be an area that we are striving to improve upon. In addition, our teachers in grades 3, 4 and 5 are continuously aligning their instruction with the test item specifications and are constantly searching for new and valuable resources that provide the rigor that our students need in order to become proficient on the Florida Standards.

## **Additional Information**

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

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections. Our math and science FSA scores from the 2014-2015 school year have also shown an increase partly due to the hands-on learning opportunities given to our students. A dedicated science block incorporated into our daily schedule has afforded us time to give the students chances to participate in STEM activities and experiments. Our science scores were number one in the city of Coral Springs. In addition, this school year we are offering the Extended Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP) to all of our students in the areas of STEM and the Arts to enrich the whole child.