

**Executive Summary**

Embassy Creek Elementary School

Broward County School District

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Cooper City, FL 33026

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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?

Embassy Creek Elementary School is located within the City of Cooper City, and is one of the five schools in the Innovation Zone. Embassy Creek presently has a population of 1,240 students coming mostly from two large subdivisions, Rock Creek and Embassy Lakes. Students walk, ride bikes, are driven in cars and use Broward County's Transportation Department to arrive at school each day. Presently, 8 buses bring approximately 20% of our students to school in the morning. The student demographic makeup consists of 43% white, 38% Hispanic, 7% Asian, 3% Black and 4% Multi-racial. This school year, 19% of students receive free and/or reduced lunches.

The Parent Teacher Association is extremely active at the school. Over 600 parents are registered volunteers and a wide-range of programs and financial assistance I offered to the students and staff members. Some of the extra-curricular clubs offered by the PTA include the Drama, Chess, Yoga, American Sign Language, Recycling and Wellness. The PTA also provides the school with financial assistance to run teacher directed clubs like Chorus, PE, Art, Music, Student Government, Safety Patrol, Morning Announcements, Mathletes, S.O.L.A.R. (Students for Outdoor Learning, Adventure and Responsibility), and a STEM club. The instructional teaching staff consists of 60 classroom teachers, 35% with advanced degrees and 17% National Board Certified. Other instructional positions include a full-time and part-time guidance counselor, ESE Specialist, Reading Specialist and 4 special area teachers (art, music, P.E. and science). Non-instructional staff members include 1 Principal, 2 Assistant Principals, 5 office staff, 5 custodians, 2 paraprofessionals and 7 unique aides.

The City of Cooper City is extremely active with Embassy Creek Elementary and recently donated money through grants for technology improvements and literacy materials at the school. Additional partners include Sunshine Child Care and Horace Mann, both contributing financial assistance to the school for programming, staff or grants in excess of $40,000 annually. Each year, Embassy Creek Elementary participates in Relay for Life and the staff, students and parents contribute over $10,000 annually to the American Cancer Society.

## 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.

School's Purpose: Embassy Creek Elementary’ s purpose is to provide our students with a safe and nurturing educational setting that allows all our students to reach their full academic potential.

Our Vision: To inspire a passion for learning.

Our Mission: To empower, nurture and facilitate our students to become global thinkers, lifelong learners and the problem solvers of tomorrow.

It is our belief that:

* All students can learn.
* Students should be challenged to reach their full potential.
* Children that are engaged socially, emotionally and academically develop to be compassionate and curious citizens.
* Students need an environment where they feel safe, valued and respected.
* Faculty, parents and the community share responsibility for advancing the school's mission.

Our school's program offerings are closely tied to our vision and mission. In an effort to provide all our students with the opportunity to grow, we offer instructional programs that are geared towards closing learning gaps as well as enriching activities for those students that are performing above grade level. Students are continuously closely monitored by our Collaborative Problem Solving Team and teachers to ensure that they are making learning gains. Careful analysis of student data has allowed us to hone in on specific learning deficiencies so that we may prescribe appropriate measures that will create a greater impact on student achievement. For students that excel in their grade levels, they are given the opportunity to participate in authentic project-based learning experiences and take part in above-grade level courses, such as ACCEL.

Countless hours are devoted to our school not only by our staff but also by our volunteers and P.T.A. members to help implement the varied programs we have at our school. For instance, yearly, P.T.A. helps Embassy Creek Elementary fund a reading incentive program, I-Ready for Math and Reading. This program has helped students and parents develop a greater understanding of their "Zone of Proximal Development" so that they may select books that are "just right" for them. Many volunteers take time out of their day to sit with our students and read to them in an effort to expose them to additional literature that will build their reading comprehension and vocabulary bank.

As one can see, Embassy Creek Elementary’ s faculty and community have one common goal, to develop the academic and social needs of our students.

## 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.

Our state assessment data has consistently reflected strong math, reading, writing and science proficiency performance levels, which have earned us a school grade of an A every year, except for two, since the inception of school grades. As a result of our exemplary performance, we have received numerous accolades. For instance, in 2006, Embassy Creek Elementary was recognized by Governor Jeb Bush as one of the top 100 high-performing elementary schools in the State of Florida. Additionally, we received a special recognition from Governor Rick Scott when we were rated in the top 10% of all schools in the state based on student achievement. Furthermore, Embassy Creek earned the prestigious Five Star Recognition Award throughout all the years that schools were recognized.

After analyzing various forms of data, Embassy Creek School staff identified the most critical areas of growth to be the following:

Area of Focus 1: Increase Learning Gains and Proficiency in Math

Although our FSA data indicates that our students have been consistently making learning gains and proficiency levels are exemplary, our math scores have struggled to be comparable to that of the reading. However, according to the 2018 FSA results, our 3rd thru 5th graders demonstrated a gain of 5 points in math proficiency. Therefore, in an effort to increase our math proficiency levels, our goal is to offer teachers additional professional development that will empower them with various differentiation strategies they may implement with their students as well as offer the parental community resources they can utilize with their children in an effort to further support the instruction that is taking place in the classroom.

Area of Focus 2: Educational Technology Integration

As a result of the SMART Bond initiative, we have been equipped with additional technology that will help us close the technology gap and afford our students a greater opportunity to develop their 21st Century skills. One of our initiatives entails converting all second, third, fourth and fifth grade classrooms as Blended Learning classrooms. In an effort to bring this initiative to life and ensure its success, our teachers will participate in professional development throughout the school year (i.e., CANVAS, LanSchool) and receive District support during the various implementation phases.

## Additional Information

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

Embassy Creek is extremely fortunate to have very dedicated staff members and community volunteers that make a daily impact on the lives of our students. We believe that collaboratively we can affect the academic and social well-being of our students. Below are some examples of our collaborative efforts.

Our school has implemented a professional learning community model, which encourages our staff to work as a team to complete instructional cycles and analyze the impact on student achievement. Through careful analysis of the Florida Standards, teams develop lessons, identify assessments that address the standards and determine whether the need for remediation or enrichment-type activities are necessary after analyzing student data. This model has allowed our grade-level teams to work as cooperative units with a common goal… student achievement.

In an effort to provide a customized, personalized learning experience for our striving learners, our Collaborative Problem Solving Team meets regularly with teachers and parents to ensure that intervention programs are implemented to fidelity and that interventionists are utilizing real-time data to identify the impact their efforts have on our students. Formative and summative assessments are continually analyzed to determine whether or not programs in place need to be modified. This process has allowed us to identify whether or not students are in need of additional services or accommodations based on their responses to the interventions.

Through the help of the many volunteers, we are able to implement many literacy-rich programs at Embassy Creek. For instance, during our annual Pajama Literacy Night, each student is given the opportunity to showcase an original published story. Our volunteers work closely with our students and teachers throughout the year to assist them as they edit, revise and publish a final piece that is then shared during our Open Mike sessions at our Pajama Literacy Night. At the conclusion of the event, all students take home their writing keepsakes thanks to all the volunteers that worked diligently to type and bind their stories.

The above-stated efforts have shown to be fruitful thanks to the countless hours our devoted staff members and volunteers have dedicated to them. We continue to strive to work as a "village" to make sure that each and every one of our students has the opportunity to grow academically and socially.