



Executive Summary

Silver Lakes 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?

Silver Lakes Elementary is located in the City of Miramar. The community has a population of 134,989 people. It is the 13th most populated city in this state out of 917 cities. According to the Census Bureau, the median household income of the residents is \$64,846. Persons in poverty include 9.3% percent. The median age for residents is 34.4 years young. Persons under 5 years represent 7.4% of the population as compared to the state 5.7%, persons under 18 represent 29.1%, persons 65 years and over 6.9%, and females 52.8%. Individuals that are high school graduate or higher age 25 and older represent 90.3%, and those that hold a bachelor's degree or higher include 31.9%. Language other than English spoken at home in this community is 48.7% and foreign born persons who live in this community include 42.4%. This is reflected in the cultural diversity in the community which includes 41.0% white, 45.7% black or African American, Asian 5.2%, and Hispanic or Latino is 36.9% of the population. (U.S.Census Bureau Quick Facts Link).

Based on school data taken from Data Warehouse, Silver Lakes Elementary population for 2017-2018 school year includes 453 students. SLE has 251 male students and 202 female students. 46% of the population is of Hispanic/Latino origin, 32% is African American, and 59% of the population is white. 54% of the families are on free or reduced lunch as compared to 36% in 2010-2011 and 14% in 2006-2007 school-year. Students with an IEP include 23% of the student population with 4 self-contained cluster classes for students with Autism and 2 special education preschool classes. Enrollment has fluctuated over the years. The school opened with 744 students in 1988 and grew to 1818 students by 2001 due to residential development in Southwest Broward. As a result of a large number of schools that opened in close proximity to our school including other Florida public schools and several charter schools, our current enrollment is 456 students.

Some of the challenges our school experiences include the growing number of students who are on free and reduced lunch. As the criteria for becoming a Title 1 school changes and our percentage of students who are economically disadvantaged fluctuates from year to year, it is challenging to meet our community's growing needs without having additional financial resources afforded to Title 1 schools that serve similar population demographics. An additional challenge is providing resources and support for special education population who needs the additional academic, emotional, and social supports to become college and career ready.

Silver Lakes Elementary has 40 instructional staff members serving as teachers and instructional support and 17 paraprofessionals, 2 pool subs, 4 clerical, 4 cafeteria, 4 custodial - approximately 75 total employees for the year. All positions are filled and there is minimal turnover of staff. 37% of teachers have a master's degree and 63% of teachers hold a bachelors degree. Teaching staff and students are supported by a principal, assistant principal, guidance counselor, literacy coach, mathematics coach, autism coach, ESE specialist (special education), and paraprofessionals. Staff participates in ongoing PLCs, conferences, and training to continuously improve their skills.

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.

Silver Lakes Elementary has a newly revised purpose that is aligned with our district's Beyond Expected Student Targets (BEST) Blueprint to provide a high quality education ensuring that our students are college and career ready while implementing the Broward County Public Schools BEST Blueprint:

Practice 1: Focused and Authentic PLCs

Practice 2: Response to Intervention

Practice 3: Optimal Internal/External Relationships

Practice 4: Scaling Up Best Practices

Practice 1: Focused and Authentic PLCs

Effective PLCs scheduling allows each team to meet weekly with fidelity. Each grade level shifted the focus of their weekly meetings from a grade level procedural and operational meeting to discussing student progress, addressing CARE goals and analyzing student data to differentiate instruction to meet student needs.

Practice 2: Response to Intervention

The team works collaboratively to ensure that struggling students are quickly being identified and interventions and progress monitoring tools are in place to ensure student success. The Rtl team has identified curriculum and programs that are research-based and were proven effective in remediating specific student skill deficits and as such, assists teachers to target instruction and offer specific targeted interventions. Additionally, instructional staff participates in mini-workshops called Chips and Tips with the goal of offering education and support to teachers on the Rtl process (e.g. scheduling, graphing, interventions, progress monitoring, etc.).

Another wonderful resource to assist our teachers with the Rtl process is the establishment of Silver Lakes Math, Reading, and science Corner websites offering teachers and families many resources aligned to the Florida Standards. Resources include assessments, worksheets, WIKI resources, website links, and strategies to assist struggling students, and more. Please visit slmath.weebly.com and slereaders.weebly.com, as well as slscience.weebly.com to learn more about all our terrific resources. We are currently working on enhancing the website to include behavioral resources, interventions, and data collection tools.

Practice 3: Optimal Internal/External Relationships

Silver Lakes Elementary implements the district's Welcoming Schools Initiative by facilitating a variety of programs that communicate to faculty, staff, students and their families that Silver Lakes is an extension of the family unit. From the moment one enters the school and being greeted by a friendly and welcoming office staff, to faculty and staff that put forth a tremendous effort to educate and care for their students. Our cafeteria, custodian, support staff, and administration support all school programming that go well beyond only meeting the students' academic needs. To illustrate the special atmosphere that resides at the school, we have 90% membership of faculty serving as a mentor to a student in need in our school. This particular student is not a student in the teacher's classroom, but rather at the building at

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large. Through our Teachers as Mentors in-house mentoring program, our teachers provide TLC to students at the school who exhibit an emotional or a social need. Each month, our mentees participate in school wide mentoring events that include snack, arts and crafts, games, and bonding activities with their special mentor.

In addition, throughout interval times during the year, our entire school population participates in anti-bullying activities with the goal of offering proactive activities to promote peace, kindness, empathy, caring, and helping others. For example, during the week of February 14th (Valentine's Day) our students participated in Kindness week activities learning to show kindness to self and others by writing positive notes to self, signing a pledge located in the main hallway to be kind to others, writing positive notes to a mystery class, and creating shoeboxes filled with loving notes and arts and crafts supplies for children who are hospitalized. To further reinforce a culture of collaboration and caring, our students are immersed in daily morning announcements on our WSLE news station that include positive messages and programming that celebrate other students and our multicultural school community.

In order to promote and celebrate the school's positive impact on students, our school success and activities to parents and inform internal and external stakeholders of all success and recognition and activities going on at the school, we have developed a marketing and public relations 'campaign.' The action plan to bring this vision to life includes the following activities:

1. Establishing a Facebook page to showcase all the wonderful things that are going on in our school.
2. Establishing a Twitter account to instantly communicate school messages of success to our community stakeholders. @sleflamingos
3. Organizing Family nights to promote home-school connection (e.g. Movie Night, Texas Roadhouse Family Night, Curriculum Nights, Barnes and Noble Literacy Family Night and lots more.
4. Parentlink- Continuing to enhance communication with families by informing parents of upcoming events via parent link, app, email & text messaging.
5. Facilitating websites for reading, math, and science with resources and activities for teachers and families that provide education about the Florida Standards, assessments, interventions, strategies, depth of knowledge, and lots more (slemath.weebly.com, slereaders.weebly.com, slscience.weebly.com).

Practice 4: Scaling Up Best Practices

Triannual data chats with individual teachers, administration, and support staff to analyze class academic achievement and individual student data, and ensure alignment with standards, assessments and Instructional Focus Calendar.

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.

Silver Lakes Elementary has so much to be proud of! Despite the challenges mentioned earlier regarding the reduction in school enrollment, the large number of ESE students, and the increase in students needing free or reduced lunch, Silver Lakes Elementary collaborated with teachers, students, parents, and the local community to generate resources and find creative solutions to ongoing problems. After a decrease in school grade, we were able to increase our school grade to an A in Spring of 2017. Silver Lakes Elementary faculty and staff work collaboratively to offer additional intervention and instructional time to struggling students by creatively scheduling specials teachers teaching block to include time to serving students. Specials teachers were trained in research based curriculum that is targeted to remediate specific skills deficits such as Phonics for Reading, QAR, iReady, and specific math strategies. Grade levels have a shared planning time each day in which they disaggregate data, and work together to remediate struggling students on their grade level based on the isolated skills they discussed earlier in their meetings.

Support staff and instructional coaches offer pull out and push out instructional models aligned with the Florida Standards to offer additional remediation to struggling students. Targeted Enrichment Camps are also offered to further strengthen student's skill deficits.

Often times, an increase in ESE population and economically disadvantaged population brings about an array of social and emotional challenges. To better meet the needs of our students, Silver Lakes Elementary offers a variety of supportive mentoring programs that are teacher and student based. Teacher as Mentors program includes 90% of our faculty members from teachers, to the cafeteria manager, to office personnel who serve as a mentor to a struggling student at our school. Another successful mentoring program is our Flamingo Friends program. Our third, fourth, and fifth grade students serve as a "buddy" to a student in the self-contained cluster classes offering social interaction experiences and friendship opportunities. During our annual Field Day, our Flamingo Friends join their "buddy" and support him/her during all the physical activities, running beside them and cheering on their successes.

As 44% of our community is comprised of families of Hispanic heritage, a tremendous need arose to offer a dual language program. Our program continues to grow in size and ongoing parent satisfaction continues to drive forward the yearly increase in grade level offerings. Our students in grades Kindergarten through fourth grade are learning to read and speak in a second language. They have presentations on the morning announcements and on the stage to family members and other students.

Offering assessments that generate accurate and detailed data to be used to drive instruction has been a great achievement this school year. We sought out and purchased assessments that are aligned to the standards and that will yield segregated data that will identify specific skills deficits and will offer lesson plans and interventions to remediate those skills. Our school closely works with iReady to offer students assessments that provide experience with the variety of test item types on the upcoming FSA and offer teachers the needed data to identify the class trends, strengths and weaknesses as well as lesson plans and interventions to target the needed skills.

Our teachers administer BAS triannually in grades K-3 and to struggling students grades 4-5, which further assists the RtI process in overall progress monitoring of all students throughout the Tiers (I, II, and III) and allow for early identification, remediation, and progress monitoring of students.

We began expansion of technology resources three years ago as a Digital 5 Pilot Program. All students in 5th grade were given their own

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laptop and were instructed through a blended learning model including both traditional digital learning resources and strategies. We have continued to expand our technology through use of profits from our aftercare program and dollars from a new Bond. Currently we have all 2nd, 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students with their own laptops and/or ipads and a ratio of 1 device per 4 students in PreK - 1st grades. We continue to improve our strategies and curriculum implementation. This notable achievement has been on our list for continuous improvement for the next few years with the goal of offering all our students population the technology skills to be prepared for college and career in the 21st century. We were recently identified as a "21st Century School" and are very proud of our technological expansion and our direction in preparing our students to be college and career ready.

Over the next several years, our goal is to continue and improve vertical curriculum planning between grade levels to provide a vehicle to address gaps/repetitions within the curriculum both horizontally and vertically. This vertical communication tool for ongoing dialogue between K-5 grade levels about teaching and learning, and will connect initiatives - curriculum, assessment, instruction, professional development, and will serve as a tool to integrate cross-curricular skills (reading, writing, research, higher order thinking, technology, etc.).

Another goal is to implement a STEM component to prepare our students for the middle school Cougar Path STEM program. This will ensure continuity between levels as students move from elementary to middle to high. Silver Lakes Elementary truly has so much to be proud of. We are very excited to continue to grow and improve our practices

Additional Information

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

Have you "Liked" us on Facebook? Have you "Retweeted" our Tweets? Silver Lakes Elementary has joined the millions of people around the world to communicate its success and report school activities to its parent population and the community via social media. We have established a Facebook page and a Twitter account to showcase all the wonderful things that are going on at our school. Our goal is to continue and enhance communication with our families and provide them with immediate information about ongoing happenings at the school.

Autism in Flight is an annual event designed to introduce 5th grade students on the Autism Spectrum to the airport and get them on a real airplane. The event started thanks to a Silver Lakes Elementary School parent, Tim Arnwine, bringing the idea forward. From the first year when Silver Lakes was the only school involved Broward County Schools now involves many schools in the program. The event is a partnership with Jet Blue Airlines, TSA, Ft. Lauderdale Airport Authority, Broward County Sheriff's Office, Broward County Mayor's office, and the Broward County Public School's ESE Department and the Office of the Superintendent.

Silver Lakes Elementary's administration and ESE staff are proud of the formative role they've had in starting this event. Staff provides Autism Awareness training to Jet Blue and TSA staff ahead of the event. Parents of the participating families are very grateful that this event exists. Parental feedback has indicated that bringing their child to the airport and dealing with all the sensory stimulation, as well as going to an actual ticket counter, TSA Checkpoint, Terminal gate, and boarding an actual plane has helped prepare their child and family on how to approach and prepare for an airplane travel experience.

We are also very proud to be the recipients of the Golden School Award presented by The Florida Department of Education to recognize exemplary programs, which promote parent and community involvement in education. This award was presented to us since the school first opened. We are very proud of our volunteers, involved parents, community partners, mentoring programs, and mostly for the collaborative atmosphere that is flowing throughout our school building.