



Executive Summary

Tradewinds 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?

Tradewinds Elementary School has a student population of 1,252 (51.9% male and 48.1% female), and is located in Coconut Creek, Florida in northwest Broward County. Our school population consists of the following racial breakdown:

- 79% White
- 13% Black/African American
- 48% Hispanic (white and non-white)
- 4% Multi-Racial
- 4% Asian
- 0% Native American/Native Indian/Pacific Islanders.

According to the 2010 census, the racial population in the city of Coconut Creek is consistent with the make up of our community:

- 75.3% White
- 13.7% Black/African American
- 36% Hispanic (white and non-white)
- 3% Multi-Racial
- 3.8% Asian
- 0.1% Native American/Native Indian/Pacific Islanders.

For the 2018-2019 school year, we have 69 classroom teachers, 7 specials teachers, 3 speech language pathologists, and 2 ESE support facilitators. Additionally, we have 7 support staff members (1 principal, 2 assistant principals, 2 reading coaches, 1 guidance counselor, 1 ESOL coach, 1 Autism coach, and 1 ESE specialist). Among these staff members, 87% are white, 6% are Black/African American, and 15% are Hispanic. Over the last several years, we have seen many changes take place in our school. Although in past years we have seen an increase in student population, this year our population has decreased by about 70 students. Students rotate among 7 specials classes (Art, Music, P.E., Creative Writing, STEM, Media, and Mandarin Chinese). In 2013, Tradewinds Elementary School became Title 1. We currently have 56% of our students on free/reduced lunch. We have a large and growing ESE population at our school, including 4 autism cluster classes and 4 pre-k classes serving ESE students. ESE students receive services within general education classrooms, through resource and collaboration. We continue to embrace the challenge of meeting the needs of all of our students at our school and having high expectations for all. One way that we do this is through the looping system we have in place at our school. Tradewinds Elementary has embraced the looping philosophy since it opened in 1996. In most cases, students at our school stay with the same class and teacher for two consecutive years (K-1, 2-3, and 4-5). This allows teachers to really know their students on personal level and build relationships with the students and their families. It also gives teachers the chance to know a student academically and understand how to help them meet their learning needs and goals.

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.

Tradewinds Elementary School is committed to developing a learning community of caring individuals and life-long learners. Self-worth is cultivated in a nurturing environment and decisions are based on what is best for students.

Tradewinds Elementary School will:

- promote and encourage activities to develop collegiality.
- provide information via state-of-the-art formats and technologies that best meet the needs of all.
- provide an environment that identifies and promotes understanding of diverse populations.
- pursue and use best practices or quality learning experiences for students.
- promote excellence in student performance by developing the philosophy of teacher as facilitator and student as information seeker.

We believe:

- the individual has intrinsic worth.
- all students have the ability to learn and have responsibility for that learning.
- community parents, administrators and teachers share the responsibility of educating our youth.
- all children have a right to be safe and to learn in a nurturing environment.
- diversity strengthens society and humanity flourishes when all work cooperatively.
- students must be information-seekers, utilizing technology and innovative techniques.
- discipline is founded on truth, honor, respect, camaraderie and constructive solutions to ensure the optimal educational experience to succeed in society.

Our looping system is one that is unique and sets us aside from all other elementary schools in Broward. Looping allows students, teachers, and parents to form lasting relationships with each other, and gives teachers the opportunity to best meet students' needs to prepare them for academic success. These lasting relationships allow our students to feel safe and respected in a nurturing environment. Tradewinds Elementary has high expectations for our students, and this is evident in programs we offer at our school. Our students learn Mandarin Chinese as a foreign language and have the opportunity to learn about Chinese culture. The teachers and students at Tradewinds also put on grade level shows for parents and the rest of the school, where students perform on stage and have the opportunity to showcase their learning to all in a platform that infuses the curriculum into performing arts. At Tradewinds, we offer opportunities outside of the classroom to expand on academic achievement. We do this through our FSA (Florida Standards Assessment) Academy, First in Math, and RAZ Kids. FSA Academy is a before-school Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) where students who are identified as needing extra help get targeted instruction in either ELA (English Language Arts) or math. Teachers teach small groups during this time and this allows us to target the needs of our students. First in Math and RAZ Kids are internet-based learning programs that our students utilize. First in Math is used for our second through fifth graders and gives students the opportunity to fine-tune their math skills. RAZ Kids is a literacy program that we offer to our kindergarten, first, and second graders. This program is individualized based on the student, and he/she gets the opportunity to practice reading at their instructional level at home. The students' work is monitored by the teacher, and students are rewarded for their achievements. Our primary Instructional Learning System (ILS) is i-Ready, which is utilized by all students K-5. Students take a diagnostic assessment three times a year and the data collected from these assessments provides students with an individualized learning path. Our students in fourth and fifth grade are given opportunities to be part of extra-curricular clubs: Awesome Buddies, Math Team, Debate Club, "Start With Hello" Club, Environmental Club, and Safety Patrol. The purpose of these clubs is to build character and promote academic

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achievement. In Awesome Buddies, the students become leaders and role models in the school for our large population of autistic students. They go into the classroom and help those with Autism learn social skills by talking with them, reading to them, helping them with their classwork and playing with them at recess. The children form lasting relationships with each other that even carry through into the middle school. The Math Team meets after school and works on preparing for the Broward County math competition. They work on solving challenging problems independently and together as a team, a skill that will serve them well in the real world. In Debate Club, students prepare for district-wide debate competitions. The "Start With Hello" Club is part of the Sandy Hook Promise initiative. This club teaches students the skills they need to reach out to and include those who may be dealing with chronic isolation and create a culture of inclusion and connectedness within the school. The Environmental Club at our school is in charge of our garden. The students plant and grow organic vegetables, and learn how taking care of the environment is imperative. Our Safety Patrol is tasked with helping greet students and visitors at the front doors every morning and monitoring the hallways to ensure students are displaying safe behaviors. They also take on the task of leading our Youth Crime Watch Program. Additionally, they host a celebration for local veterans for Veterans Day, where they serve breakfast and put on a patriotic show, including songs and performances by 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.

As the curriculum gets more challenging and the expectations become more demanding, we are proud of our ability to continue to showcase academic excellence and learning gains among our teachers and students. Tradewinds Elementary also stands out as a school with a great deal of parent involvement. We have parent volunteers on campus every day helping teachers in the classroom and organizing PTA events. Our families show up for many of our after school/weekend events such as our Ice Cream Social meet and greet in August, Open House presentations in September, Family STEM Nights, Young Authors' Nights, PTA family nights, and community events. Each year Waste Management hosts a community event for Earth Day and year after year our school is recognized for having outstanding participation and attendance at the event. Academically, the two areas that need improvement at Tradewinds Elementary are science and reading. Our students participate in science rotations, where they travel to different classes in the grade level and do hands-on lessons and experiments to deepen their knowledge of science content. These science rotation days are meant to give the students a chance to experience many hands-on activities that are aligned to the standards in one school day. We also have worked to build our differentiated STEAM family events. Families who come to school on these evenings get to take part in experiments that build on what students are learning in school. We hope that with the continued use of these programs, we will see an improvement in the science test scores at our school. In order to make improvements in the area of reading, we know we need to focus on our lowest quartile students who are not making adequate learning gains. We began the year by strategically looking at different data points (Benchmark Assessment System, i-Ready diagnostic, Florida Standards Assessment, etc.) to identify students who need intervention through the Multi-Tiered Systems of Support (MTSS) and Response to Intervention (RTI) Framework. We developed a school-wide intervention block so that teachers are only responsible for one intervention group per day and students can travel to another teacher to receive the proper intervention. The RTI team meets with teachers on a 6-8 week rotation to analyze data and determine if the intervention in place is working with students. The intervention block gives us flexibility to make fluid groups and move students around as they make growth or change the design of the intervention.

Additional Information

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

Tradewinds Elementary makes educational achievement a priority. We do this through many different avenues, including many opportunities for parents to learn how to best support their children in their academics. Coffee and Comprehension, interpreted in multiple languages, is a monthly workshop that we offer to parents of our students. Parents are invited monthly to be educated on various topics to help their child be successful. We have also implemented FSA Academy for Parents. This academy is meant to serve as a learning opportunity for parents to better understand the state assessment. Parents are not only given information about the format of the assessment (question types, computer/paper-based assessment, subject areas, etc.), they are also shown sample test items. This allows parents to specifically see what the students are tested on. Reaching out to our parents and educating them on our standards and expectations are extremely important at Tradewinds Elementary. Motivating our students is also a priority at Tradewinds Elementary. Our school holds a monthly Multiplication Olympics competition. Third grade classes compete against each other in these games and students who have mastered their multiplication facts get to participate in this event. Creative Writing Showcase is another event we hold annually to motivate students. On this night, students are given the opportunity to share special pieces of writing on stage to an audience. These events are held in the evenings, and students write stories, poems, or essays and their hard work is put on display for an audience. This not only motivates students to be great writers, but it also makes their work purposeful. Above all else, Tradewinds Elementary stands out because of our hard-working teachers. The teachers at Tradewinds are truly one of a kind. They are continuously updating their instruction based on the rigorous needs to meet high standards. The teachers here are not only working to help their students learn, but they themselves are life-long learners. Our teachers are always reading about new cutting-edge ways to help our students be successful and learn collaboratively through authentic PLCs. Our teachers immerse themselves in professional learning through book clubs, district workshops, and national conferences. The dedication of our teachers really stands out.