

**Sunset Lakes Elementary School**

**Executive Summary Template School Accreditation**

**2018-2019**

The Executive Summary (ES) provides the school an opportunity to describe in narrative form its vision as well as strengths and challenges within the context of continuous improvement. Use this template to complete the responses to the various questions below. The responses should be brief, descriptive, and appropriate for the specific section. Transfer completed narratives into the corresponding sections of the Executive Summary found online in ASSIST.

**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?

Sunset Lakes Elementary was built in 2002 in the city of Miramar, located in southwestern Broward County. This area of the county experienced tremendous growth as a result of Hurricane Andrew. Rapid development spurred a continual need for classroom space through the early 2010s as homes and businesses populated the surrounding areas. The majority of homes in our area are single-family structures. A limited number of shared wall construction comprise a small portion of the developments surrounding the school. Our current boundaries only include planned developments. In order to serve an expanding student population, a second classroom building was added to the campus of Sunset Lakes in 2009. This building currently houses the third through fifth grade students, a computer lab, three science labs, a teacher lounge, and office space. Our school is home to 925 students. The racial demographics have remained relatively unchanged over the past 4 years. Sunset Lakes's current student population identifies as 22 % Black, 22% White, 43% Hispanic, 11% Asian, 1% Native American, less than 1% Mixed Race, and less than 1% Pacific Islander. 22% of the students benefit from the Federal Free and Reduced Lunch Program. Currently there are 52 classroom teachers, 2 speech/language specialist, 1 ESE Specialist, 1 Literacy Coach, 1 Math Coach,1 Instructional Coach, 1 Guidance Counselor, 1 microtech, and 15 paraprofessionals working to help our students learn. Teacher and administrator turn over is low. The school has only had 2 principals and 5 assistant principals over the years. Many teachers and staff members have been at the school since the inaugural year. The 2015-2016 school year brought a new program to Sunset Lakes. We are home to an Autism Cluster consisting of a blended kindergarten/first grade class, blended first/second grade class, blended second/third grade class with Autism Spectrum Disorder ranging from high functioning to low functioning. Each child has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) which is implemented daily within their school instruction. Their IEPs require accommodations and modifications to daily school instruction. The teacher and two paraprofessionals provide these children with specific interventions and strategies to help them reach their highest potential and goals. Sunset Lakes Elementary hosts three pre-kindergarten programs. There is a half-day program for children with delays in articulation. This program meets with up to 12 students in the morning and 12 students in the afternoon. There are two classes of Specialized Pre-Kindergarten. The students are ages 3-5 with developmental delays. The main goal of the Specialized Pre-Kindergarten classrooms is to increase communication and socialization skills as well as encourage independence. Our third Pre-Kindergarten class is Intensive Pre-Kindergarten. This class has a 3 to 1 ratio of students to adults. The goal is to provide early intervention for delays in communication and socialization. Each day our teachers and staff strive to meet the challenges presented by our English Language Learners. Eighteen percent of our student population is classified as ELL. A walk through the halls of Sunset Lakes will allow you to meet students that speak Spanish, French,

German, and two Chinese dialects. The school has a full time ELL paraprofessional to ensure program compliance and provide support for the classroom teachers.

**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 Sunset Lakes Elementary is to serve the students, staff, and community by: instilling the love of learning, and preparing students for the future. Central to this mission statement is the unwavering belief that all children can learn and that providing a myriad of opportunities. The staff at Sunset Lakes is committed to providing every student with a safe and nurturing environment. Our teachers utilize technology and research based curriculum programs to encourage students to reach their highest potential. Parents play an integral role through volunteering, supporting our teachers, and participating on our School Advisory Committee (SAC) and Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA).

BELIEFS

\*Student learning is our primary focus.

\*Learning occurs best in a safe, secure environment.

\*Students learn best when they are actively engaged in meaningful, challenging work.

\*Students learn best when the staff maintains high expectations for learning.

\*ALL students can learn. Different students learn at different paces and have different learning styles.

\*Positive relationships are the essence of good teaching.

\*Parents are an integral part of our success.

\*All school personnel play a vital role in student success.

\*All stakeholders share the responsibility to advance the school's vision.

\*Technology is essential to a 21st century learning environment.

**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.

**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.** Recently the Florida School Grades report awarded Sunset Lakes Elementary the "A" school designation. Our school has earned this honoreach year of eligibility despite ever increasing proficiency targets. Continually meeting and exceeding the total point target is directly relatedto the commitment of all stakeholders to raise academic achievement. The school reading coach provides support by providing assistance intargeted small group instructions. Teachers coordinate within the grade level to provide students will opportunities for both intervention andacceleration.The principal facilitates vertical planning discussions in order to ease transitions between grade levels. A direct result of these valuablemeetings was implementing the Fundations program for phonemic awareness and phonics in kindergarten and first grade. Our school willcontinue to implement vertical discussions in order to meet the needs of our students.In order to meet the needs of our English Language Learners, Sunset Lakes holds family nights in which parents and students are invitedinto the school to learn about the resources available to support student learning. Teachers volunteer time to hold workshops for the studentsand parents. Language assistance is available. We also have an afterschool ELL camp to provide reading support for this population in asmall group setting outside the classroom. Similar students are grouped together in order to provide supported and challenging learningopportunities.Sunset Lakes Elementary holds a charter membership in the National Elementary Honor Society. Students in fifth grade have the opportunity

to apply to be a member. Each student must undergo a rigorous screening process. They must have the required grade point average, letters of recommendations, and submit an essay. During the fifth grade year students take part in an induction ceremony and take part in community service in our school. Technological proficiency is essential to success in the twenty-first century. Our commitment to providing our students with the needed skills

to succeed in this ever evolving area resulted in providing every student in 3-5 a personal computer. Teachers have also committed to extensive Canvas training in technology integration. Lesson delivery and student participation continue to evolve daily. All classrooms have a Promethean board, projector, and document camera to assist teachers in providing engaging instructional activities. Our school has two computer labs for the use of students in pre-kindergarten through 2nd grade. Teachers have created a schedule to maximize instructional usage. The school's media specialist teaches 21st century skills to include: word processing, creating charts and graphs, utilizing multimedia software to create presentations, and conducting research online while vetting reliable sources. Teachers from other schools throughout the district visit our school in order to learn how to establish similar programs at their schools. The faculty and staff at Sunset Lakes continually look for ways to improve our school. Providing additional programs, such as afterschool tutoring for upward bound students at no cost to parents is a goal we seek to achieve.

[**Additional**](http://www.advanc-ed.org/assist/s/diagnostic/section/view?surveyId=1147697&sectionId=265) **Information**

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

Sunset Lakes Elementary continues to strive to provide opportunities to provide our students and their families with an outstanding school experience. Students look forward to participating in our annual Hispanic Heritage and Black History Month Assembly performances. Teachers volunteer time to develop and maintain a fourth and fifth grade Math Club. Our fifth graders routinely place in the top of the district in the competition. The fourth and graders from our school have had the opportunity to compete. Scrabble has been offered afterschool for the past four school years. It is open to third through fifth grade students. The Guidance Counselor maintains our Patriot of the Month Program in conjunction with the countywide Kids of Character Program to promote citizenship and character education. In addition, we have partnered with a local martial arts studio to hold an annual anti-bullying education program. Students move through the levels of the program in the same manner as earning belts in martial arts programs. The studio hosts a graduation program for students and parents. The fifth grade gifted class holds an annual Egg Drop competition in which the entire school is invited to observe. Students of all grade levels enjoy making predictions as to the winning device. The competition takes place prior to our school wide Science Expo. The timing is perfect to stimulate innovative ideas for classes and individuals to explore. Our teachers also sponsor Family Math Nights. Recent nights have taken place at our local Publix Supermarket. This school year we are going to host the math night at our school. The Math Club students are excited to participate and help host the event. The Soaring Eagle Academy is our school run before and after care program. The program is administered by the staff of Sunset Lakes Elementary and provides additional dollars to our programs. The primary and intermediate computer labs were funded with SEA funds. Students benefit from high quality before and aftercare services, clubs, and extended learning opportunities. Additional math and science activities are planned and facilitated by teachers at Sunset Lakes. Students have choices to take part in clubs such as: cooking club, art club, video game club, carpentry, basketball, soccer, drama club, glee club, dance club, Lego club, and Hotwheels club. The SEA not only benefits students, our teachers have the opportunity to earn extra money without leaving campus. Parents are appreciative of the ease of providing top quality care to their children. The teachers of Sunset Lakes Elementary receive support from the administration to bring charitable causes to our campus. We host an annual Turkey Trot to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association in November. The Walk for Autism takes place in January. This event not only benefits the Dan Marino Center, but also gives money back to our school to support our autism program. We fundraise for the Juvenile Diabetes foundation and have an active Relay for Life team to benefit the American Cancer Society. Giving back to the community is important to the students and staff of Sunset Lakes Elementary.The city of Miramar supports our belief that children learn best in a safe environment by providing our school with a Resource Officer. Students have positive interactions with a law enforcement officer who is visible on our campus. The Resource Officer teaches the S.O.A.R. program to all fifth grade students. This stands for Students Obtaining Achievement and Responsibility. In addition to the S.O.A.R. program, our fifth graders have the opportunity to participate in a Police Athletic League sports program. Students from Miramar schools compete in

kickball and flag football thanks to the efforts of the Miramar Police Department.