



Executive Summary Template School Accreditation – Rock Island Elementary

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?

Rock Island Elementary serves students from Pre-K to 5th Grade. Our current student population is comprised of 529 students. Our school demographic is ninety-nine percent African-American with a small population of Hispanic and White students. Over the past three years the school's student achievement rates have remained low. All curriculum areas fall in a range of between 20-29 percent proficient. For the past two years the school has been a recipient of the School Improvement Grant and has made strides to provide robust professional development, to increase extended learning opportunities for students, and to bolster the schools technology inventory. The school recently received a new principal this past July and has experienced four different leaders in the past eight years. The school's staff is comprised of sixty-six classroom teachers, instructional coaches, administrators, and other support staff that also resemble the demographics of the students.

Rock Island Elementary is located in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in the 33311 zip code. The school's zip code is significant because of the community that the school serves. The community itself is one that is surrounded by warehouses, industrial parks, abandoned lots and numerous strip malls housing small mom and pop businesses. Our parents struggle to make a better life for their children as they deal with many extraordinary circumstances that make it difficult for some of our families to put education at the forefront. This struggle is made even more difficult by the number of single parent households, parents who work multiple jobs and the overwhelming poverty that most all of our students live in. Cumulatively, this means that many of the school's students come ill prepared academically and lack many of the support systems needed to do well in school.

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.

The school's purpose statement is to prepare our students to be college and career ready. Our mission statement is as follows: *Rock Island Elementary School is committed to providing students with a safe and stimulating environment, a love for learning and respect for our world through the combined efforts of faculty, staff, parents, and the community. Through a love for learning, we foster a motivational environment in which students can be successful in reading, mathematics, science and writing.*

College and career readiness starts first and foremost with literacy. Our main focus at Rock Island is closing the literacy gap for our students. To do this staff has engaged in several professional development opportunities structured around diagnostic reading assessments, the stages of reading development, and the use of Guided Reading as a strategy to meet every child where they are and to move them along the reading continuum back up to grade level. The school has also invested a great deal of the School Improvement Grant funds toward the purchase of the Leveled Literacy Intervention Program developed by Fountas and Pinnell. This intervention will be the school's go to intervention in regards to literacy and will be implemented in every classroom and school-wide during the school's intensive reading hour. In addition, the Rtl process is also closely monitored to ensure that we are identifying the necessary strategies for students to make progress both academically and behaviorally.

Rock Island Elementary also has invested a great deal of resources to the development of science, engineering and computer science. Most recently the school has instituted a science lab where students make weekly visits to engage in the nature of science and the scientific process. Students also attend a computer science special every week where they are provided opportunities to hone technical skills and interact with software related to coding. The school also offers the Engineering is Elementary curriculum which is infused into the science curriculum at strategic intervals. Robotics is also offered as a club to further expose and engage our students skills needed for the 21st Century.

Lastly, the school's staff believes deeply that we must address the whole child if we are to realize the academic achievement we aspire to. With this in mind the leadership and faculty have been sure to address the social emotional well-being of students and to be mindful of building each students confidence with frequent praise and acknowledgement. One way the school accomplishes this is with a daily "Morning Meeting" where teachers take time to build community in the classroom, discuss issues that are meaningful to the class and to set the tone for a positive day. The school also believes deeply in engaging parents in the educational process. Beyond the norms of required parent teacher conferences the faculty makes frequent contact with parents in relation to both concerns and areas for praise. One of our most significant challenges is finding ways to gain the support among our students' parents and or guardians. To this we offer monthly parent nights and in addition also provide parents with opportunities to network with other families and the staff here at Rock Island. An example of this our "The Rock Island Family Spaghetti Dinner Night" which is most recently turned out over four hundred of our families.

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.

Over the past three years there have been many achievements that have positioned the school to experience future academic success. The most significant has been the school's endeavor to increase the efficacy level of the teachers in the building. This has been accomplished through developing the practice of collecting and analyzing student data in an effort to make better-informed decisions about the instruction being provided in the classroom. Teachers have developed SMART goals and have tracked student progress at preselected intervals relative to those goals that both monitor student practice, but also provide feedback relative to the effectiveness of each teacher's instructional practices.

Teachers have also engaged in the professional learning communities where they have become more familiar with the notion of collaborative planning. The school, through the School Improvement Grant (SIG), which was awarded to the school two years ago, has also played a significant role in increasing the capacity of the teachers and students. Through the SIG grant a robust professional development program is in place and technology has been purchased to assist both teachers and students. Lastly, the SIG has also enabled the school to secure a plethora of academic resources (Robotics, Engineering is Elementary, Mimio Teach, Lucy Caulkins Units of Study, Laptops, TV Production Equipment, Literature for classroom libraries, etc.) they would not have had otherwise.

Academically, while the school has not experienced increased proficiency rates learning gains have remained consistently strong over the past three years. Most recently, the school has experienced success in its science proficiency rates, as they increased by fourteen percent from the 2014 to 2015 NGSSS Science administration.

The school has also been a recipient of the 21st Century After School Grant. This grant enables the school to extend the school day for identified students free of cost to our families. Our 21st Century Afterschool Program offers additional academic instruction in all areas of academia while also providing additional programs to help develop the whole child. Examples of such programs are dance, gardening, robotics, chess, project-based learning, and live performance. This program also provides a monthly parent night where parents gain information about various topics that enhance the well-being of the family and promote engagement on the part of the parent.

Additional Information

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

The administration, staff, and stakeholders of Rock Island Elementary are working hard to ensure that its students are receiving a high quality education that is research-based with innovative academic programs. One way to ensure that this takes place is through funding from the SMART Bond Initiative. The school's stakeholders are currently in the process of deciding how to best utilize \$100,000 in funds. Ballad options include converting 7 classrooms to fully digital classrooms (projectors, surround sound, mimeo apparatus, etc.), enhancing the digital capacity of every classroom, upgrades to the Computer Science Lab to include STEM activities (i.e. Robotics), and/or equipping the playground or a portion of the PE courts with a cover. In

the upcoming School Advisory Council meetings, ballot options will be solidified and our stakeholders will have an opportunity to vote on a combination of the options listed above that will best meet the needs of our students.