



# **Executive Summary**

**Everglades High School**

**Broward County School District**

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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?**

Everglades High School is a moderately sized, multi-ethnic school of over 2400 students. Our school prides itself in its racial and ethnic diversity, and has a student population that is 45% Hispanic, 36% African-American, 8% white, 8% Asian, and 2% Multi-Racial. The school is located in the beautiful and burgeoning city of Miramar, FL, but borders both Pembroke Pines and Miami Lakes. The surrounding neighborhood consists of predominantly middle class households with a median income of over \$50,000. The racial composition of the surrounding community closely mirrors that of the schools, with a slightly higher population of whites than what is enrolled in the school.

The community also has a large population of people from a variety of Caribbean nations, including Jamaica, Trinidad, Dominican Republic, and Cuba. The majority of our students come from homes in which one or both of their caregivers possess a post-secondary education, a significant portion of whom have earned a Bachelors, or Graduate degree. In addition to our students and surrounding community, the school's staff is highly motivated and extremely qualified. Large portions of our teachers hold graduate degrees, while many others have certifications in multiple areas. The majority of our teachers have many years of teaching experience and have built a great relationship with students and the community. Miramar is one of the fastest growing cities in the country, and is home to a number of prominent businesses, including, Ross University, Carnival Cruise Lines, Comcast, among others.

## **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.**

EHS' mission statement says the purpose of the school is "To motivate students to perform in an innovative and challenging academic environment that promotes excellence, ensuring all students are productive members of a global community." Every decision made at Everglades is driven by our desire to fulfill the goals of our mission statement, which is closely aligned to the mission of Broward County Public Schools as a whole. The most important component to quality instruction in any school is the professional development and continuous growth of its teachers. To accomplish this, Everglades has developed a robust and efficient network of Professional Learning Communities, where teachers are educated on the most up-to-date, innovative, and effective teaching strategies available.

Teachers are also encouraged to share best practices and model instructional strategies to assist each other in their professional growth, which has had a positive impact on student achievement over the years. Our school promotes innovation and rigor by offering students an array of courses that challenge their intellect, while still providing them with opportunities to demonstrate their creativity and uniqueness. In addition to the traditional courses offered by most high schools, students at Everglades have the opportunity to enroll in Sports Management, our one-of-a-kind Fire Academy, Mater-Cam Auto Technician, and a variety of Industry Certifications.

Students also have the opportunity to take classes that afford them the ability to earn college credit while still in high school. These courses can be taken both on campus as well as in alternative locations. Students have the ability to take Advanced Placement courses, enroll in our College Academy, take Dual Enrollment, or be admitted into our newly established Cambridge Academy Program. Having these options available to students gives them the freedom to custom tailor their academic experience. In addition to maintaining high expectations for all of its students, and fostering a school culture and learning environment that enables teachers to deliver effective instruction, the school is active in the surrounding community. We routinely sponsor drama presentations and concerts that provide community stakeholders with the opportunity to appreciate the wealth of talent Everglades. We host Curriculum and College Fairs that equip caregivers with the information they need to make sound decisions regarding their child's academic future.

We have formed lasting bonds with community businesses, city officials, school board members, and other prominent members of the community. These relationships have been essential to the success Everglades has experienced since its inception in 2003. Parents and students are constantly updated on classroom and school-wide activities, homework assignments and assessments, and upcoming events through our first-rate website. They are also able to access Pinnacle and Virtual Counselor and correspond with members of the faculty and staff through our website. Everglades also communicates through regular email, text, calls, and mail, SAC, SAF, and the PTSA, which has contributed to the strong relationship we share with our stakeholders.

## **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 last three years, Everglades has experienced much success in the area of student achievement. AP and End of Course Exam scores in most areas have steadily increased over the last three years, and many of our subjects score well above, county, state, and national averages. We were able to establish a coveted Cambridge Academy, which provides our students with another quality option to not only help them prepare for tertiary education, but earn college credit while in high school! We were also able to establish a Fire Academy Program through a partnership with the City of Miramar. This has given students that are interested in firefighting, the opportunity to earn lower level certification in this noble profession. Our graduation rate has also been a source of pride for our school over the last few years as we have consistently outperformed the state average by as much as thirteen percentage points, and have experienced success in having many of our students accepted into college and other post-secondary institutions of learning. Finally, through principled leadership, dedication to excellence, and sacrifice, Everglades has earned an A-rating, four out of the last five school years.

Despite our many successes, Everglades is still in need of improvement in the areas of student attendance, parental involvement, and continuing to strive for excellence as a school. To improve student attendance, we have worked diligently on creating, implementing, and monitoring a comprehensive attitude and behavior modification plan. Although we have seen some success from our plan, we are still in need of improvement, especially when it comes to reducing patterns of non-attendance, truancy, and tardiness, which research shows impacts student achievement more than any other variable. We have also been aggressive in our efforts to get parents more involved in the efforts of the school.

Through the promotion of the SAC, SAF, and PTSA we have provided parents with opportunities to have a voice in the decision making of their school. We have also sponsored many activities geared toward educating parents on graduation and college entrance requirements, financial aid opportunities, course offerings at the school, and student activities. Over the next three years, we intend to build our various innovative and advanced academics course to continue attracting the best and brightest students in Broward County, and hope to continue to grow as a school.

## **Additional Information**

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

Everglades is one of the premiere high schools in Broward County. We offer a wide range of academic programs, including Advanced Placement, Industry Certification, Cambridge Academy, sports teams, performing arts, and other opportunities that challenge students cognitively and helps to prepare them for life beyond high school. Our teachers are extremely nurturing, motivating, and qualified, with a large percentage of them holding a graduate degree and/or national board certification in one or many subject areas. Our diverse population provides our students with a unique opportunity to interact with a plethora of cultures and perspectives, which helps to build tolerance of differences and compassion for others. In addition, Everglades has a robust and active School Advisory Council and PTSA, who work closely with the school's administration to improve the school and create opportunities for all stakeholders to be involved in its functioning. Our school is also active in the surrounding community and has built strong relationships with city leaders, school board members, and local businesses.