



# **Executive Summary**

**New River Middle School**

**Broward County School District**

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Description of the School.....	2
School's Purpose.....	3
Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement.....	4
Additional Information .....	5

## **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?**

Situated in the heart of south Fort Lauderdale, New River Middle Magnet School serves just over 1,400 students in grades 6-8 within Broward County Public Schools. Students from this target school are pulled from multiple municipalities that include Ft. Lauderdale, Davie, Dania Beach, and unincorporated Broward County. School boundaries create a catchment area that encompasses six zip-codes and over 20 census tracts. New River is a school-wide Title 1 program with 83% of the student population considered economically disadvantaged based on free and reduced lunch eligibility. Student demographics at New River Middle School consist of 37% Hispanic, 36% African-American, 20% White, 7% other, and 2% Asian. New River Middle School has one of the highest English for Students of Other Languages (ESOL) enrollment rates in the district with almost 10% of the student population classified as English Language Learners (ELL). Families of New River students face many challenges. School staff members are aware students come from homes where education may be limited - with less than 65% of individuals 25 and older not completing high school in New River concentrated catchment areas (Census, 2012). Also, almost 40% of families located within isolated areas of the New River catchment receive Food Stamp/SNAP benefits and access to fresh food or full service supermarkets is difficult. Finally, over 60% of students surveyed reported they did not eat a daily breakfast and 74.7% reported they were not physically active for the recommended one hour per day with 29.2% of responding students reporting they were slightly or very overweight.

## **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 Marine Science Magnet Program at New River Middle School's mission is to prepare all students to be successful academically and socially by demonstrating, promoting, and providing a rigorous academic program. Additionally, our students are exposed to marine science related careers while teaching them to become stewards for the marine ecosystems of South Florida. Our vision is for every student at New River Middle School to learn about and be exposed to environmental issues that foster marine stewardship. Through our program, our goal is for our students to become proactive in their community to preserve and protect their local habitat. Further, students will leave New River Middle School with the fundamental skills needed to become career and college ready individuals who can efficiently transition into twenty-first century job force.

## **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.**

Partnerships with our community are directly related to our theme and allow us to expose students to real world applications of the Marine Science content. One of newest partnerships includes Guy Harvey, who donated our new school logo. Other strong partnerships include Marine Industries of South Florida and the Hall of Fame Marina, which supports through fundraising events, field experiences/activities, along with mentoring. We have also partnered with Nova Southeastern University's (NSU), which demonstrates higher education opportunities. NSU's shark-tagging program allows our students to assist NSU students tag sharks and collect data as part of an ongoing research project. NSU students come to our school for various activities, lessons, and presentations, such as lionfish dissection. The US Navy, Caribbean Clean & Americas, and Resolve Marine Group support our Marine Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) elective class and club with tools, supplies, and donations along with mentoring and career exposure. Other partnerships that support our goals include: John U. Lloyd and Hugh Taylor Birch State Park through service learning projects; Guy Harvey Ocean Foundation; Week of the Ocean Organization; and Wheelabrator Environmental Organization. Our parent involvement comes through various avenues including field trip and activities chaperones, Friends and Family of New River (parent involvement group), and through our clubs where our parents volunteer their time and resources to support our students and programs.

Other significant awards and achievements include: 2014 Broward County P3 (Preserving our Planet for Posterity) Eco-Challenge Over-all School; 2015 P3 Community Involvement; 2013 Wheelabrator Environmental Award for Best Service Learning on Coastal Restoration; various awards for Week of the Ocean Organization and Science Fair Projects; Proclamation from the City of Fort Lauderdale declaring February 17, 2013 New River Middle School Day due to our environmental contributions to restoration projects; Plywood Regatta 3rd place in 2014, 2nd place in 2015. We also had students receive various awards including: 2nd place in the P3 Challenge as Student Environmental Steward for the past two years and Week of the Ocean Art Competition in various categories including poetry and marine art yearly. Our program has also been recognized with various local news articles and TV news segments.

Currently, we are striving to improve student achievement on standardized tests. The Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT) and Florida Standards Assessment (FSA) academic achievement in reading, math, and science indicates students across the board continue to struggle in all subjects.

## **Additional Information**

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

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