



Executive Summary

Sunshine 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?

Sunshine Elementary School is situated in the City of Miramar in a predominantly African American, lower socio-economic community. Founded in 1963, Sunshine Elementary is a Title One School. At this time, it has an enrollment of approximately 614 students of the following demographic: 74% African American, 20% Hispanic, 4.4% Caucasian, and 1.3% Asian. Eighty-nine percent of the students are economically disadvantaged receiving free or reduced lunch. There are 43 instructional staff members; 67% African-American; 19% White; and 14% Hispanic of which 95% are highly qualified and 26.5% have advanced degrees and 12.5% of the teachers are National Board Certified. Eighty-seven percent of the teachers have six years or more of teaching experience. Also, Sunshine Elementary is supported by four paraprofessional, a speech teacher, media specialist, art, music and science teachers.

While Sunshine Elementary School experiences some transient students throughout each school year, many of our students and their families complete their entire elementary education experience with us. Along with a very stable staff, Sunshine Elementary School has created a school community committed to the development of personal relationships and support for each student and family. In the last three years, Sunshine Elementary School has experienced a decline in the number of students who are enrolled. This trend in declining enrollment has impacted all of the public schools in our district as the number of charter schools increase.

Although our students continue to struggle in Reading comprehension, we are working diligently at closing the achievement gaps. Sunshine Elementary School is unique in the stability that it has maintained remained with its staff and its fairly stable student body, even while the community at large has experienced great economic changes. Between the very stable staff and the fairly stable student body, Sunshine Elementary School has been able to create an atmosphere where everyone is known and is supported. Our focus has been on the development of relationships in order to increase our student achievement.

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 mission of Sunshine Elementary School defines who we are, our purpose, and the means by which we will accomplish this purpose:

The mission of Sunshine Elementary School, a dynamic learning community, is to provide meaningful learning communities, staff development, and parent trainings to increase authentic engagement and student achievement. Together we learn. Together we thrive!

The beliefs of Sunshine Elementary School support those of Broward County Public Schools and define the values that we hold in our school community:

We believe that through our efforts as a highly qualified and dedicated staff, all children:

Have an ability and potential to succeed, are motivated by an engaging learning environment, need and benefit from support and involvement of the whole school community and are unique, special and have individual strengths.

Sunshine Elementary embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students by:

Making all decisions based solely on the best interest of the student;

Providing all students with open and equitable access to rigor;

Honoring the worth and integrity of each person;

By not allowing external factors to adversely affect our pursuit of excellence;

Expectations for student success at Sunshine Elementary School are high as detailed in our School pledge.

Pledge: I commit myself to learning.

I will learn everything I can.

I will listen, ask questions and share what I know with others.

I am special and I have many talents.

I have pride in myself and respect for others.

I can become anything I wish to become with hard work and dedication.

I take delight in education and I WILL SUCCEED this day!

This pledge is recited every morning by every student.

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.

There have been many positive changes that have occurred over the last three years at Sunshine Elementary School. Our school has experienced a shift toward providing more rigorous, focused instruction that is aligned with the Florida State Standards and is reflected in our current data. Sustaining and accelerating academic achievement by providing ongoing support and training for instructional leaders will guarantee that our students receive a quality education. Teachers are committed to employing researched based educational strategies and that promote critical thinking, uphold accountability and increase student achievement while maintaining the integrity of the learning environment. All classrooms are equipped with the computers and computer assisted instruction programs to prepare students to become 21st Century Learners. The 4th and 5th grade students have one-to-one student-computer ratios that allow for individualized learning. This year, Sunshine Elementary has demonstrated exemplary improvement due to innovation and effort by improving one letter grade from "C" to "B".

Sunshine Elementary will continue to create a school climate and structure that supports parental involvement by maintaining regular communication through monthly newsletters of special events, Parentlinks, and regularly sharing progress monitoring data.

The staff development offered at Sunshine Elementary clarifies expectations for continued professional education. We provided Professional Learning Communities that focus on Deconstructing the Standards, Relevant and Rigorous Instruction, Differentiated Centers, Text Complexity, Synthesis Writing, Performance Scales and Learning Goals, Math Fluency, Utilizing Performance Based Tasks and Implementing Interventions to Drive Instruction.

We believe that providing professional development will increase our teacher's level of competence and confidence to continue providing our students with a quality education.

Through increased parental involvement and effective staff development, Sunshine Elementary will continue to work to ensure that students in the Lowest 25% as well as all Sub Groups show Learning Gains and that academic progress is made in English Language Arts (ELA), Mathematics and Science.

Additional Information

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

For many years, Sunshine Elementary has been a Title I school. In spite of this, Sunshine Elementary has continuously proven that high expectations and performance are a part of the school. The staff is committed to excellence through rigorous instruction, the parents through support and commitment, and the community through continued encouragement of programs and special projects.