



Executive Summary

Westpine Middle 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?

Westpine Middle School is located in Sunrise, Florida. We are a comprehensive three-year public middle school with approximately 960 total students in sixth, seventh and eighth grade. Our school performance rating for the past two years is a "B" based on the Florida Standards Assessment. The school was opened in 1992-1993. The city of Sunrise is a beautiful, single and family oriented community with a population size of 90,000 residents. It is ranked the ninth largest city in Broward County and the average household income is \$58,614. According to the U.S Census Bureau, 37% of residents are white non-Hispanic, 31% of residents are Black non-Hispanic, including African-Americans and individuals of Caribbean descent and 25% of residents are Hispanic. Presently, there are eight elementary schools, two middle schools, one high school and two charter schools located in the Sunrise area.

Westpine Middle services the educational needs of a culturally diverse student body, which consists of 18% white, 49% Black or African American, 22% Hispanic, and 4.6% Asian. In addition, 9% of our student population is disabled, 68% are economically disadvantaged and 5% English Language Learners (ELL). Due to the number of students enrolled in the free and reduced lunch program, we are classified as a Title I school and receive additional funding to meet the needs of our economically disadvantaged students. The current faculty comprises of 64 instructional staff members and 4 school-based administrators. The professional qualifications of our teachers include 36 teachers with a Bachelor's Degree, 20 Master's Degree, 3 Specialist Degree and 1 Doctorate. The percentage of teachers teaching academic subjects out-of-field is 6.8% and in-field is 93.2% indicating the majority of our teachers are highly qualified for their positions.

In order to prepare our students to be college and career ready, we offer multiple curriculum options for students such as general education, advanced classes, Great Explorations in Mathematics (GEM) and high school credit courses. Additionally, there are a variety of electives such as Art, Physical Education, Technology, Foreign Language (Spanish) and Band. Westpine also has an active School Advisory Council, School Advisory Forum, and Parent Teacher Organization.

Westpine Middle School has made great strides to increase parent involvement with such events as our Piper Zone Showcase and 5th Grade Articulation Night. Many parents volunteers and participate in school events in the elementary school, but their attendance decreases in secondary school. Curriculum requirements have increased in the areas of Reading and Math Achievement Scores. We have also noticed a shift in student demographics with an increase in minority and students learning English as a second language.

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 at Westpine is to ensure that our caring, learning environment fosters a unique academic atmosphere, where students are encouraged and empowered to actively participate in a challenging and creative educational process. The Innovative Program A3: Advanced Academic Academy's mission is to create an innovative learning experience, which offers students a challenging educational curriculum with the opportunity to earn high school credits while attending middle school. The A3 program is committed to delivering world-class, innovative educational opportunities that challenge students to achieve personal and academic excellence and 21st Century college/career readiness skills. A3 is a rigorous program that will prepare students for Honors, A.P., and dual enrollment opportunities in high school. The A3 program will prepare students for the rigorous academic demands of college preparatory high school courses and beyond.

Westpine is committed to delivering educational opportunities for students to achieve success personally and academically. Faculty, students, families and the community are actively involved in the educational process and the creation of a safe, supportive environment, where students are motivated to learn and believe that success is attainable.

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.

During the past three years, Westpine Middle School has earned several notable achievements and improved the school's overall performance, rigor, and student achievement goals. Westpine Middle School has been awarded some prestigious grants and created an Innovative Academic Program, called A3: Advanced Academic Academy. Westpine Middle School has been awarded a grant for Reading Plus, valued at \$12,000. This program was utilized to increase student achievement in reading. Next, Westpine Middle School has developed a Young Writers Program and received grant funding for it. This program is implemented through the art department. Students answer the question, "How can I write and publish my own book?" More than 200 students per year outline, write, edit, and publish their very own books. Furthermore, Westpine has created an EPICS Memorial Garden. The funding for this project enables students to learn and apply scientific, engineering, and mathematical principles in the design and creation of a Memorial Garden in a site that poses unique challenges and requires an innovative approach to problem solving. In addition, Westpine Middle has been awarded grant funding for an innovative bullying prevention program. Through this project, students create Public Service Announcements, which are shown school-wide on topics ranging from bullying to drug to dating violence prevention. Finally, Westpine has created an Innovative Program called "A3: Advanced Academic Academy". An area of improvement was identified as being the need for an advanced, rigorous program that would address the needs of high-achieving students. Over the course of the next three years, Westpine will strive to foster a unique academic atmosphere, where students are encouraged and empowered to actively participate in a challenging and creative educational process. Over the course of the next three years, these programs will continue to evolve. It is the goal of Westpine Middle School to increase the academic, social, and athletic opportunities for all students by continually reviewing the established programs and looking for ways to improve them through professional development, expansion of rigorous courses, and the implementation of innovative programs through grant funding.

Additional Information

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

Florida choice programs allow parents to select the best educational setting between private and public. However, this program has led to a steep decline in Westpine's student population. During the 2014-2015 school year, the enrollment was 1,073 students. The following year, a competing charter school opened, and the enrollment dropped to 958 students. The projection for the 2016-2017 school year is 914 students. This is a decrease of 15% of our student population in three years. As a result, our student enrollment has declined, affecting our school budget, retention of teachers and removal of electives.