



# **Executive Summary**

**Everglades 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?**

Everglades Elementary is located in Weston, Florida and is part of the Broward County Public School System. Since Weston is a newer city in Broward County the schools, homes, and businesses are of newer construction. The city of Weston is a well-established, affluent area therefore houses range from moderately priced single-family homes to multimillion-dollar estates. The city of Weston has a large group of Hispanic residents. The school has strong parental support, with a large number of parent volunteers and an active PTA board. Everglades Elementary has a strong reputation in the community for its academic success and friendly staff members. The school is a Pre-K-5 institution, which houses a self-contained Autism Cluster. The current enrollment of the school is approximately 1031 students. This includes 562 boys and about 469 girls. The majority of the school's population consists of White and Hispanic students. The current demographic breakdown for the school includes approximately 26% whites, 3.0% African American, 52% Hispanics, 3% Multi-Racial, 14% Asian, 0% Native American, 0% Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, 28.02% ESE, 34.24% ESOL, and 17.4% free and reduced lunch.

The faculty and staff consist of 78 certified teachers who are "Highly Qualified", five excellent office-staff members, and a strong administrative team. The majority of the staff members are seasoned employees with 5+ years of experience in the Broward County Public School System. Currently 42% of teachers have Advanced Degrees, 16% of teachers are Reading-Endorsed, 10% of teachers acquired National Board Certification, and approximately 98% of teachers are ESOL-Endorsed.

Over the past three years our school population has grown by over two hundred students. This growth has particularly impacted our school's subgroup dynamics. The number of students identified in our English Language Learners (ELL), Exceptional Student Education (ESE), and Free and Reduce Lunch (FRL) subgroups has been increasing consistently. The major factor contributing to this change is Florida's School Choice Program. The School Choice Program allows parents to choose the best educational setting--public or private--for their child. Since historically our school is one of the highest achieving in Broward County, many parents of students in these subgroups are choosing to attend our school.

This surge in growth has created challenges for our school to overcome. The first challenge is with the infrastructure of our school. We are running out of classroom space to house the influx of new students. To address this concern our school has implemented the use of the Co-teaching and the Digital 1 to 1 learning. The next challenge we have faced is with the scheduling of services to accommodate the individual needs of the students. To address this concern our school has hired additional personnel. Currently we have Curriculum Support Specialist, two Speech and Language Pathologist, two ESE Resource teachers, and one ELL Support person.

Another challenge our school has encountered over the last several years was the lack of updated technology. Our students were unable to access the latest technology resources available for interventions and enrichment. This led to our students lacking the technology skills needed to be successful 21st Century Learners. To address this concern during the 2014-2015 school year we partnered with our school's Parent Teacher Association to purchase two hundred and twenty Lenovo laptops. During the 2015-2016 school year we used district SMART bond monies to buy additional four hundred and fifty laptops Lenovo Laptops. 2016-2017 school year we also used SMART bond monies to purchased 6 Recordex, and laptops for digital 3. Currently every student in third, fourth, and fifth grades have access to their own computers. All other grades are at a ratio of 2:1 for computers access in the classroom. We also have additional laptop carts for all grades that do not have 1:1 classroom access. Additional security enhancements were made after the 2017-18 school year, including a full time security campus monitor and full time School Resource Officer.



## **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.**

Our mission at Everglades Elementary is to provide a safe, nurturing learning environment for all students. We strongly believe that all students can learn and that students are entitled to an equitable education. Students are given the optimum experiences to tap into their innate and unique abilities. Given all possible opportunities and resources students rise to our high standards, realistic expectations, gain the love of learning, become responsible and productive citizens, and ultimately will become lifelong learners. Students of our school will be prepared and equipped to meet the challenges of the twenty-first century.

Our vision at Everglades Elementary is one where children are educated through a collaborative effort among parents, faculty, staff, students, and the community. The mission of the school is to develop the love of learning in each child, the ability to engage in critical thinking, and to demonstrate complete mastery of the academic building blocks necessary to compete in the 21st Century." The school strongly believes in the motto " It takes a village to raise a child" and therefore highly encourages parental involvement in the education process.

At Everglades Elementary we focus on preparing students for college and career readiness. We provide an array of resources to address the Florida State Standards and promotion criteria. Classroom teachers provide differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all students. To address the needs of our struggling students, teachers implement intervention strategies through small group instruction. In addition, our school offers tutorial programs such as school Math Camp and after-school Reading Camp. To address the needs of school's subgroups, we offer a Language Enrichment Camp to our English Language Learners (ELL). Our school also provides enrichment activities through an after-school Extended Learning Opportunities Program (ELOP). These programs provide a wealth programs implemented by teachers highlighting individual hobbies, talents and interest. Students participate in these activities for approximately six weeks out of the school year. Other interesting extra-curricular activities provided at our school include Drama Workshop, Broward County Math Competition Team (BCCTM), Battle of the Books Competition, Robotics Competition and SECME Teams.

A strong PTA in collaboration with the faculty engages in many fundraisers, family, and health-oriented events for the children. These events include Family Math Night at the local Publix supermarket, Interactive Book Fairs, Career Day, Science Fair/Art Gallery, Jump Rope for Heart, and Field Day.

In appreciation for our network of community members, parents, and dedicated family involvement we continue to carry on some strong traditions. These include Muffins for Moms, Monster Pancakes, Parent Day Breakfast, Volunteer Breakfast, and other parent appreciation programs.

## **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.**

Everglades Elementary has scored above state and county averages consistently on Florida Standardized testing and has earned the school recognition grade of an "A" consecutively since the inaugural school year. The school has also been recognized as one of the top 10% of school in Florida and has earned the President Education Award, and a School of Distinction. Everglades has acquired the prestigious awards and recognition since its inception including "Little Red School House" Award, STAR School Recognition Award, Golden School Award, Gold Seal of Excellence for Quality Child Care Services, Peace Pole Award, Art Show Case Award and Excellence in meeting the needs of Autism Students.

Within the last three years, our school has been working collaboratively with other zone schools to find initiatives that have impacted student learning to further enhance our students' educational experiences. We are currently upgrading technological equipment, and the use of technology in grades Pre-K-5th. Our school participates in the county's Digital One on One Program where all students in 3rd through 5th grades are in possession of a laptop for interactive and integrated instructions as well as state testing. Classroom teachers use a variety of computer programs to help meet the individual needs of the students. One program we use is NewsELA in third through fifth grades. This program provides rigor on reading comprehension through the use of nonfiction text covering current events. Another program we use is Accelerated Reader for Kindergarten through third grades. This program provides rigor in comprehension and has shown great improvement in various skills as evident on the comparison of STAR assessment at the end of each quarter. Other resources our school uses include Vocabulary.com, Noredink, Mobymax, Edmodo, and the new book logging app Beanstack.

Some of our best practices include implementing Professional Learning Communities (PLC) using Curriculum Assessment Remediation Enrichment (C.A.R.E.) Cycle to develop curriculum, monitor progress and adjust curriculum to ensure students' individual needs are being addressed. Teachers analyze student data, engage in data chats, and access resources to continually meet the specific needs of students. We use multiple assessment tools such as Journeys tool kit, online teacher tools, reading running records, aligned with teaching and state standards for remediation and enrichment.

## **Additional Information**

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

Our school strives to create an environment where all stakeholders feel valued, appreciated, and welcomed. We create this environment by encouraging shared decision making, having an open door policy, and using effective communication strategies. This environment is evident in several ways. First, we have a high teacher retention rate. The majority of teachers on staff are veteran teachers that have been employed at our school for ten or more years. Next, we have a high percentage of parents who volunteer on a regular basis. We have received the Golden School Award consecutively for the last eighteen years. In addition, we have a high percentage of families active in our Parent Teacher Association (PTA). The PTA organizes fundraisers, family events, and various student events throughout the school year. Last, all stakeholders on the Annual School Survey consistently rate our school highly effective.