



## Executive Summary Template School Accreditation

The Executive Summary (ES) provides the school an opportunity to describe in narrative form its vision as well as strengths and challenges within the context of continuous improvement. Use this template to complete the responses to the various questions below. The responses should be brief, descriptive, and appropriate for the specific section. Transfer completed narratives into the corresponding sections of the Executive Summary found online in ASSIST.

### 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?

Riverside Elementary is located in southwest Coral Springs. It was built in 1987 for approximately 750 students. This year we have 732 students according to our official 20th day enrollment count. Riverside currently houses students with the following demographics: 45% White, 20% Black, 27% Hispanic, 8% Multinational, 6% Asian, and 0.14% Native Hawaiian Pacific Islander. Our community demographics are as follows, 45.9% White, 21.3% Black, 25.7% Hispanic, 4.2% Asian, and 1% Native Hawaiian. For the past three years Riverside has had consistent demographic percentages.

Our staff consist of a highly qualified group of educators who possess vast knowledge of their subject matter, as well as, compassion for all students. Our teachers are state-certified and many have multiple certifications. Riverside currently has a staff population of 77 with 74% White and 15% Black. Of the 77 staff members 11% are Hispanic.

The challenges Riverside faces are:

Continuing to meet the demands of the increased change in our demographics.

One of the most unique features of Riverside is our active involvement of parent and community support. This support helps us to improve student achievement and teacher morale as we establish valuable relationships.

## 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.

In developing the mission statement for Riverside Elementary, the faculty and staff have made an effort to ensure that stakeholders have the opportunity to contribute to the process of outlining the mission statement of our school. Administrators, schools staff, and students meet regularly to discuss the needs specific to our school and surrounding community. After many discussions and collaboration, Riverside adopted our current mission statement, which includes our passion and commitment to serve all students, families, and the community. The mission statement of Riverside Elementary is as follows: Riverside Elementary School, in partnership with parents and the community, is committed to developing well-rounded students with the ability to contribute to society and envision a better future.

We believe it is important to provide challenging and enriching learning experiences to our students. Riverside Elementary has developed an afterschool Extended Learning Opportunity Program which provides students with culturally and enriching classes that promote physical, intellectual, emotional, and social development in a safe and nurturing environment.

Riverside Elementary embraces a 21<sup>st</sup> century blended curriculum that seeks to meet the needs of all students. Our combination of direct and technology-based instruction provides a flexible framework for students. Students have the opportunity to master specific standards and skills at their own pace in levels of rigor conducive to their specific learning styles. This blended curriculum encourages students to become actively engaged in their own learning as they become confident in their academic abilities.

Riverside maintains the quality of outstanding academics by engaging staff in professional learning communities. This ensures that our instructional practices are based on the specific needs of all our students. We strive to increase student learning gains and academic achievement through implementation of a rigorous, computer standard-based curriculum, as well as through administration of a variety of assessments and progress monitoring tools. The school leadership and instructional staff collaborate systematically in order to have an effective comprehensive process to analyze student assessment data. In order to make necessary adjustments that will lead to increased teacher effectiveness and student learning, Riverside utilizes various types of assessments (Screening tools, diagnostic assessments, progress monitoring test, formative and summative assessments, and standardized assessments) in order to obtain information that teachers can utilize to assist them in planning instruction throughout the year.

Evaluation instruments assist teachers in recognizing students who are in need of academic intervention in a particular area, students who are in need of changes to their instructional program, and students who meet mastery of a standard according to their established proficiency level. Riverside's leadership team and teachers met regularly to determine appropriate data-driven decisions to ensure students are receiving appropriate instructional programs. In order to support teachers, Riverside provides ongoing professional growth opportunities throughout the year.

## 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.

Riverside Elementary is proud of its achievements in receiving the Golden School Award. Riverside has also been awarded more than \$3,200 through the Broward Education Foundation Teacher Innovative Grant Funds. These grants have provided teachers with the ability to increase innovation and creativity to their classrooms as they develop successful and motivating classroom strategies and methods.

Riverside has also been successful in its implementation of the customized, blended curriculum model which emphasizes direct instruction and technology-based instruction in core subject areas. During the last two years, Riverside has increased the percentage of students participating in Digital 5, Digital 4, and an increase in digital access among all grade level.

We are thrilled to share that we self-funded in the 2015-2016 school year, resulting in Riverside currently being a Digital 4 and 5 school. As well as the increased technology accessibility to all students. This unique and innovating program provides students with the opportunity to learn on their own path as they explore new digital learning styles. As pupils advance in programs on English ELA, math, science, social studies, and other subjects, teachers have the ability to track their students individual progress, identify specific areas of focus for each student with specific data, and present solutions that address their specific needs. Through the commitment and passion of our skilled educators and staff, we help our students reach their learning goals though our technology implementation.

Riverside continues to use data to drive instruction as we monitor student learning through formative and summative assessments. Our academic focus will continue to provide differentiated instruction by utilizing standard based planning. Staff will continue attending small guided reading group trainings as well as, critical content writing trainings, to support the needs of all students. This focus will expand the opportunities to personalize instruction and promote acceleration wherever possible.

Riverside has also developed and nurtured strong links to the community. By creating partnerships with local businesses and agencies, the school keeps up with the changing needs of the diverse community that surrounds it. In addition to the business ties that have been created, Riverside Elementary benefits from the participation of an active PTO that sponsors fundraisers, and parent involvement activities that help establish stronger educational links between home and school. Parents have many opportunities to be involved in their child's education through participation in decision-making opportunities such as SAC, SAF and an extensive volunteer program.

Riverside Elementary will continue to address the following areas in need of improvement, which have been identified through stakeholder surveys and district reviews: acquisition and upgrades to technology. The school has been awarded Smart Bond money and a plan has been developed by the district to facilitate implementation of structural and technological upgrades throughout the building. Riverside is continuously growing and engaging in professional development to build upon our instructional practices to extend our ability to meet the needs of our changing demographics.

### **Additional Information**

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

Riverside Elementary is proud of its effort to instill in all students a culture of responsibility that will enable students to become productive, contributing members of society. In collaborating with our community partners, parents, and staff, we strive to accomplish challenges our students face. Our teachers continuously strive to build partnerships with parents to support student learning. Strong communication is fundamental to our partnership and to building a sense of community between home and school. In these changing times, our teachers and staff are continuing to develop and expand their skills in order to maximize effective communication with parents. Our school actively communicates with parent and the community by sending out updated school information via Facebook and Twitter in addition to sending out frequent Parents Links.

Riverside's administrators actively provide experiences for all teachers to grow as leaders, resulting in options for individual and student growth. This growth is enhanced by empowered teachers, who are committed to the overall success of our school's mission. Implementation of these experiences at Riverside has provided the ability to continuously increase teacher empowerment and build teacher moral. As a result, Riverside is proud to share that we have a minimal rate of attrition.