

Sawgrass Elementary School Improvement Plan
Executive Summary
2018-2019

Description of School

When walking into the front office of Sawgrass Elementary School, you immediately embrace a sense of family and warm welcomes. Sawgrass Elementary was built in 1993, it is located south of Flamingo Rd in Sunrise, Florida. With an influx of residents in the Sunrise area, in 2005, Sawgrass an additional two-story building with 24 classrooms was added to the campus.

Currently, Sawgrass fulfills the learning needs of 1024 children in grades PK-5. Within the PK-5 classroom instruction, Sawgrass also has an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Cluster that provides additional services to those students. For the past six years, we have taken on the role of being a Title 1 school; with 60% of our students qualify for Free & Reduced Lunch. Over 300 students qualify as LEP learners, which is about 29% of the entire student population. When looking specifically at student demographics, 46% of our students are of Hispanic, 21% are of African-American/Black, 20% are of Caucasian, 5% are of Asian, and 5% are of a Multi-raced ethnicity.

Our faculty is comprised of over 100 employees, with 1 Principal, 1 Assistant Principal, 1 Curriculum Specialist, an ESOL coordinator, an ESE specialist, an Autistic Coach, one School Resource Officer, specials teachers for Media, Music, STEAM, PE, and Spanish. We currently have 16 teacher aides, five custodial members, two Speech Language Therapists, two VE teachers, three Pre-K teachers, two Intensive Pre-K teachers, three Autistic cluster teachers, eight Kindergarten teachers, eight 1st grade teachers, eleven 2nd grade teachers, nine 3rd grade teachers, seven 4th grade teachers, and seven 5th grade teachers.

Sawgrass has a few unique challenges which includes it's location, FTE size and historical demographics. The school's FR/L percent was as low as 26% and now it is almost tripled. As a result, most students are not getting the out-of-school experiences of past peers. Another challenge is its location. Sawgrass is located on the board of a major highway system and near an industrial park. Many parents drive into the area for employment, drop students off at school and pick them up in the late afternoon. This makes Sawgrass a major "commuter school;" parents are not consistently participating in many school events and students targeted for pre/post school enrichment are not able to attend.

School's Purpose

Within our academic programs, Sawgrass offers Dual Language programs for grades K-3, as well as gifted and Advanced Academic Placement classes across all levels. All students participate in school programs. This includes our Pre-K and ASD students.

The mission of the school is to make a significant difference in the lives of our students by instilling a lifelong love of learning and creating a challenging and stimulating environment, sensitive to the individual needs of students, as demonstrated by all students achieving learning gains. This mission statement is a direct correlation to expectations that are set in each of our classrooms. We embodied our mission with our Dual Language (Spanish) and Academic Accelerated Programs, our teachers are consistently creating challenging and stimulating environments, while allowing for all children to be successful.

Outside the academic block, our students are involved in a variety of after school programs and clubs. This school year we will be implementing an ELOP after school club based program. Several of our after school clubs, partner with the City of Sunrise to highlight and support our students to their highest potential

Additional Information

While we have maintained our "A" status for two years in a row, our student population has shown a dramatic change. This past school year our enrollment dropped by about 80 students all with a variety of different backgrounds which makes it more difficult to identify the trends.

In the classroom, our teachers, many have additional endorsements in Reading and Gifted, are engaged in meaningful professional learning teams and book clubs to strengthen their pedagogy in order to have a more positive impact on student achievement. We have waiting lists for our AAP and Dual Language programs have grown tremendously.