



Executive Summary for Dillard Elementary School

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.

Description

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?

Dillard Elementary has a long and proud history that dates to the early development of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Dillard Elementary was established in 1923. The school included grades 1 through 12 until 1954, when the separation of elementary and high school occurred. Both schools were then built in another location. Dillard Elementary School is a primary school servicing Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten Education Program, VPK (3- & 4-year-old students), 2 ASD Clusters (K-2) to grade 5. The demographic location of the school is in the inner city of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. More than half the families in the surrounding community are African American. The housing in this demographic location consists of renters residing in government funded projects or a home with a median value of \$350,000. Being considered a "neighborhood school", 90% of Dillard's students are walkers. Furthermore, 80% of the students reside in a single- family resident and/or are raised by a grandparent or great-grandparent. In regard to education, less than 19% of the neighborhood population has a four-year degree. Also, the average income for a family of four is approximately \$48,000 per year. Dillard Elementary currently has an enrollment of 542 students, which includes 6 Caucasian students, 524 African American students, 5 Multi-Racial students, 1 American Indian or Alaskan Native, and 27 Hispanic students. The school's enrollment population has been consistent throughout the last three years. The staff demographics at Dillard Elementary consists of 1 principal, 1 assistant principal, 32 teachers, 1 guidance counselor, 1 media specialist, 2 security monitors, 10 paraprofessionals, 4 full-time custodians, 1 ESE Specialist, 5 office personnel, 1 cafeteria manager, and 5 cafeteria workers. As a Title I school, Dillard Elementary has a 98% free and reduced lunch population. Through Title I funding, low-income students at the school are provided with a more level "playing field" to have the opportunity to achieve academic success.

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.

At Dillard Elementary, it is our belief that all students can learn if provided the opportunity. The vision of Dillard Elementary is to develop a healthy community of learners who are academically proficient, effective communicators, and responsible citizens. All stakeholders have high expectations for students and are dedicated to providing all students with a challenging and rewarding learning environment. The mission of Dillard Elementary is to provide a quality education to all students, to collaboratively develop students and prepare them for the 21st century in a stimulating, safe and motivating learning environment. Dillard Elementary embodies its purpose through a variety of program offerings and high expectations that are embedded within the culture of the school. All students are provided with a stimulating learning environment that consists of reading, writing, language arts, mathematics, science and social studies. Students' learning is enhanced through the use of multi-media such as I-pads and laptops. Classrooms are also equipped with Promethean, Recordex, Projectors, and Elmos. In addition, all students have four special area classes; which consist of music, science, physical education, and media. Learning across the curriculum is provided and enhanced through the special area courses. Teachers collaborate with the special area teachers to make sure that the learning is transparent. In addition to the school day offerings, there are a variety of afterschool and extracurricular programs that are also provided, which are the following: Debate Club, Cheer/Dance Team, Drumline, Gardening, Violin (through Volta Music Foundation) Robotics, Basketball, Student Government and the YMCA.

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.

A notable achievement and area of improvement was grade 5 Science Proficiency for the 2023-2024 school year which increased from 18% in 2022-2023 to a 30% in 2023-2024 and from a 30% to a 49% in 2024-2025.

Another notable achievement and area of improvement was overall Math Proficiency in grades 3-5 for the 2024-2025 school year which increased from a 42% in 2023-2024 to a 68% in 2024-2025.

Dillard Elementary is very fortunate to have a full time Social Worker and a Community Liaison to assist with the social and emotional learning for students to be successful and make decisions that will positively impact their growth and development. In the next three years, we hope to increase ELA Proficiency beyond 50%. It is our hope that we can improve all students' literacy levels by providing authentic learning experiences that will empower students to apply their knowledge and skillsets throughout their academic career. It is also our hope that we can strengthen and improve parent involvement by continuing to provide resources to our families and keep them engaged in our academic family nights.