



Executive Summary for Collins 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?

Collins Elementary is located in the city of Dania Beach, Florida. The school and its surrounding area are rich in history. The historic roots begin as the first city in Broward County, dating back to the 1880s. The City of Dania was incorporated in November 1904 and has continued to thrive as a community. Collins Elementary was built in 1959 and is named in honor of Mrs. Leola C. Collins. The Collins family remains very active in the community, and Collins Elementary has celebrated its 65th Anniversary on March 2024.

Collins Elementary has a diverse population throughout its faculty and staff. The instructional staff includes 56% Black or African American, 26% White, 13% Hispanic/Latino, and 5% Other. Teachers are varied in teaching experience. 54.5% of Collins teachers have more than ten years of teaching experience, 40.5% have between three and nine years, and 5% have less than three years of teaching experience.

Collins is a Title I school that serves 261 students in grades Pre-K thru 5. Our students represent various racial and ethnic groups including 55.2% Black or African American, 31.4% Hispanic/Latino, 10% White, 3.4% Multi. 19% of our students are identified and supported through our Exceptional Student Education (ESE) program and 23% are English Language Learners (ELL).

The high poverty rate of the population of students served at Collins presents several challenges for the school. Our boundaries include two Section 8 housing developments as well as a significant number of duplex and triplex homes. While the Section 8 housing allows for long-term leases, most of the other rentals in the community have six-month terms. Additionally, many of our families share dwellings as a temporary living situation. Many students will enroll for only a few months. Each year, we face the challenge of having 10-20 percent of our K-5 population fail to have a full-year attendance as defined by attendance in both the October and February surveys. Less than half of our fifth-grade students have attended Collins for third, fourth, and fifth grades. Only 10% have attended since kindergarten. A new shopping center plex, Dania Pointe, has been added to the community as well as new

condominiums have been built within the boundaries. It is the hope that these additions will provide more revenue, job opportunity, and stability for families with elementary school-age children. Currently, it is too soon to measure the impact on the school and the community.

The high poverty at Collins also presents attendance concerns. As families transition from one home to the other, students are often absent for several days while they stay with relatives temporarily. Additionally, our students often lack access to routine health care. Dental issues present a significant source of difficulty as the area lacks viable option for Medicaid families. Students are often absent for several days with a toothache. Due to the cost of over-the-counter medication, common cold symptoms are left untreated, and students will often miss days of school while recovering. Collins relies heavily on partnerships in the health-care field to provide medical services to our families.

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.

Collins Elementary School envisions itself as a school of excellence that empowers every scholar to reach their fullest potential and lead confidently in our diverse world. Our mission is to cultivate a nurturing and inclusive environment that promotes excellence, resilience and character.

To meet the needs of each student individually, Collins employs a knowledgeable, caring faculty and staff who seek to know each child and his or her family personally. Teachers and support staff take a “whatever it takes” approach to individualizing the curriculum and support for each student. This begins within the classroom, where students receive rigorous instruction with varying support based on individual needs. For those who require additional support to achieve grade level expectations, Collins utilizes a variety of programs. Additional support staff members pull groups of students throughout the school day to fill the gaps that exist between a students’ present level of performance and the grade level expectation. Extended learning opportunities are available after school for our ELL students to help support the academic language acquisition necessary to be successful in school. For students in third through fifth grades, an after-school Language Arts and Mathematics tutoring program is available to help prepare students for success on the Florida Assessment for Student Thinking (FAST) Our partnership with the United Way Reading Pals program brings adult volunteers to the school each week to provide a one-on-one reading and mentoring program to many of our struggling first grade students.

Collins implements a Response to Intervention (RTI) process to ensure that the interventions provided to students are both meaningful and effective. Student progress is traced to ensure he or she receives the interventions necessary for academic success. For those students who fail to make progress even with appropriate interventions and who are identified as needing Exceptional Student Education (ESE) services, Collins has one full-time and a half-time ESE Support Facilitators. These teachers provide services to students needing specialized instruction in reading and/or math, and these students work toward individual goals in these areas. Additionally, Collins has two Resource Teachers to assist with specialized instruction for general education students who need support. Recognizing the impact of the COVID pandemic on academic needs, Collins continues to have daily 30 minutes of Go For Gold Intervention that provides support to students who need an extra layer on intervention

beyond Tier 1 instruction. The Go For Gold Intervention is conducted by the Collins support staff.

For our gifted and high achieving students, Collins ensures that each student receives instruction that accelerates and enriches the grade level curriculum. Project-based learning and/or an accelerated program of learning is employed by the teachers of this population of students. Throughout the year, the progress of these students is monitored to ensure that they are continuing to achieve at high levels of performance.

Throughout the school year, students may experience difficulties with various social aspects of their education. Collins employs a full-time guidance counselor to help find appropriate services for these students. We work very closely with Memorial Health Care Systems and several other social service agencies to provide students and families with access to medical and mental health care support. Henderson Clinic, Chrysalis Health, and Smith Mental Health are also available to students and families through referrals from Collins.

Collins also offers mentoring groups for its young men. Brothers Keeper teaches young men valuable life skills, character traits and reinforces positive behaviours and academic achievement. Scholars meet weekly as a group and are checked in on daily.

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.

Academically, Collins Elementary celebrates an increase in student achievement. We are very proud of the collaboration of success by our faculty, staff, students, and families. For the 2025-2026 school year, the overall school grade increased 3 percentage points, which solidified our "B" school grade status. Collins had one of the highest increase in the district in Science of 34 points.

Collins Elementary has always maintained high academic expectations for our students. To celebrate academic success, 18 years ago, an annual academic banquet was established through the generosity of one of our partners in education. Each year, our top performing students in each grade level gather with their families for a semi-formal awards dinner. Prior to the pandemic, Collins was once again, demonstrating growth in student achievement as defined by the states' school grading system. Over the next several years, as we implement the state's Benchmarks for Excellent Student Thinking (B.E.S.T.) and the district's new reading and mathematics curriculums, we strive to achieve at least 70% proficiency in both reading and mathematics in grades 3-5. Collins strives to provide equitable opportunities for all students by meeting their individual academic and social/emotional needs. Our STEAM Enrichment programs that take place on Wednesdays during PLCs allow our students to receive academic learning in areas such as Minecraft, coding, art, gardening, and dance/mime.

For a student to be successful in our intermediate grades, a student must have strong foundational literacy skills. We recognized that many students were entering third grades with decoding and fluency deficiencies. Therefore, in our current School Improvement Plan (SIP), we have taken an approach to target early childhood literacy along with intermediate grades within the school. Through early childhood literacy interventions and extended after school learning opportunities to our Kindergarten and first grade students, we hope to close achievement gaps at a younger age so that students can demonstrate grade level proficiency by the end of second grade, thus preparing them for a successful future in reading.

Throughout the past several school years, Collins has actively worked to increase parent engagement at the

school. We have added a family event for every month of the school year. Each month, we bring parents, teachers, students, and community partners together with academically focused activities. The attendance at our events has increased by more than 30% in the past two years, and based on the feedback we have received, parents feel more connected to the school because of the relationships that are built during these events. Community-based partners are also able to connect with families who require additional supportive services. Recently, Collins has partnered with the Mobile School Food Pantry program to provide fresh produce and other perishable goods. Once a month, the organization transforms the school cafeteria into a produce supermarket where families can select these items free of charge. Additionally, in lieu of having Career Day, our students participate in Collins Career Connections (CCC). In CCC, students are exposed to various careers through prominent guest speakers/presentations on a monthly basis. These additional educational experiences expand students' knowledge and understanding of how learning transcends beyond the school building and impacts the community.

Additional Information

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

The safety of public schools remains on the forefront of educators, parents, and the public. Collins has received significant improvement for campus security. As an older school, we have a campus with exterior hallways that opened to our parking lot. This posed a safety challenge for our school, as visitors were able to enter campus without a single-point-of-entry. A fence was added around the perimeter of the parking lot, preventing any access to the campus other than through the front office. Additionally, security cameras have been positioned throughout the campus to monitor all activity on campus as well as the outskirts of the school campus. With this added security measure, Collins is better able to prevent intruders and ensure the safety of its students while on campus.

A new major city center, Dania Pointe, has been established in Dania. This development includes high-end retail establishments, restaurants, hotels, apartments, and condominiums. While it has greatly increased the number of families with elementary school-age children, we hope to increase our business partnerships by inviting these new entities to join Collins in support initiatives of the school.