



Executive Summary for Deerfield Park 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?

Deerfield Park Elementary is a Title I Visual & Performing Arts magnet in Deerfield Beach serving 377 Pre-K–5 students (2025–26). Our community is diverse, highly engaged, and supported by strong civic and business partners. Over the past three years, DPE improved from a D to a B (2023) and posted strong learning gains (ELA 71%, Math 55% in 2024–25), while focusing on Tier 1 alignment and inclusive practices. Challenges include chronic absenteeism (~42%), high economic need (>90% FRL), and persistent SWD performance gaps (federal index 36%), alongside substantial K–3 literacy needs (SRD 261). Unique strengths—award-winning arts programs, community mentoring, and extended learning—anchor the school's magnet identity and help drive academic and whole-child growth.

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.

Deerfield Park Elementary exists to empower every scholar to achieve academic success, nurture creativity through the visual and performing arts, and develop the character and resilience needed to thrive in a diverse and global society.

Our mission is to provide rigorous, standards-aligned instruction in a safe, inclusive, and supportive environment. Through innovative teaching, data-driven decision-making, and authentic engagement with families and community partners, we ensure all students—especially Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners—are prepared for future success.

Our vision, “**Taking Flight Towards Excellence**,” reflects our commitment to high expectations, equitable opportunities, and meaningful learning experiences. We believe that:

Equity ensures every child can succeed with the right supports.

Rigor and engagement drive academic excellence.

Creativity is fostered through the arts and enriches learning.

Collaboration with families and community partners strengthens outcomes.

Resilience is built through consistent attendance, perseverance, and positive behavior.

We embody this purpose through a wide range of program offerings. The Visual and Performing Arts magnet provides access to band, chorus, steel drums, dance, and visual arts, while academic programs such as the Academic All-Star Extended Learning Camp address core subject achievement. Leadership and enrichment opportunities—including 5000 Role Models, Safety Patrol, and Career and Family Nights—connect learning to real-world skills. Expectations for students emphasize growth, responsibility, and participation in both academics and the arts, with positive reinforcement through initiatives like Fawn Bucks and the Fawn Fun Arena. Together, these practices bring our mission, vision, and values to life.

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.

Over the past three years, Deerfield Park Elementary has demonstrated notable growth in both academic performance and school culture. The school improved its state grade from a D to a B in 2023 and has maintained that status while working toward earning an A. Academic progress has been especially strong in English Language Arts, with 71% of students demonstrating learning gains in 2024–25, including 69% of students in the Lowest 25%. Math also showed progress with

55% of students making gains, and Science achievement improved significantly, increasing from 27% proficiency in 2023–24 to 46% in 2024–25. In addition to academics, the school has expanded opportunities for enrichment and student engagement through its award-winning Drumline, Visual and Performing Arts magnet programs, and initiatives such as 5000 Role Models, Reading Pals, and the Academic All-Star Extended Learning Camp. Community partnerships and family engagement have also grown, with local organizations, volunteer groups, and businesses providing resources, mentoring, and support.

Despite these accomplishments, Deerfield Park Elementary continues to face several challenges. Students with Disabilities remain a subgroup in need of intensive support, with a federal index of 36%, below the threshold for six consecutive years. Chronic absenteeism is another pressing concern, as 158 students—approximately 42% of enrollment—missed 10% or more of instructional time in 2024–25. Foundational literacy also remains a priority, with 261 K–3 students identified with a substantial reading deficiency.

Looking ahead, the school is committed to increasing proficiency rates to meet 2025–26 targets (ELA 60%, Math 60%, Science 37%) and closing subgroup gaps, particularly for Students with Disabilities. Reducing chronic absenteeism, accelerating early literacy through systematic, explicit reading instruction, and strengthening science proficiency with inquiry-based and cross-curricular approaches are central to this effort. Together, these strategies will ensure the school continues its upward trajectory toward academic excellence.

Additional Information

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