



Executive Summary for Whiddon Rogers Education Center

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

Location and Demographics: The school is located in an urban neighborhood in the shadows of the Fort Lauderdale/Hollywood International Airport and the Port Everglades. As a Broward County Public Alternative School and part of the Fort Lauderdale Innovation Zone, we serve about 1100 students who are overaged, short on credits, and/or low GPA from seventh grade through twelve grades, up to age 22. These students have not met their educational goals in a traditional high school setting. To help students reach their goals, Whiddon-Rogers Education Center utilizes authentic instructional methods and strategies to assure positive outcomes and continually serve to help students graduate from high school. Students have the option of graduating from their home school.

Learning Environment: Whiddon-Rogers Education Center provides a safe and secure environment where students engage in academic and creative pursuits, utilizing cutting edge technology where highly effective educators provide real world experiences and curriculum through collaboration. We promote a culture of learning where all stakeholders can engage and establish a partnership for students' educational achievement. The Middle School Academy Program provides students in the seventh grade with the opportunity to recover credits and be promoted. Students in the eighth grade can recover eighth grade as they earn high school credits.

Student Population: We normally serve a population of 700 adults who benefit from the educational services of ABE/GED program in the Broward County jails. However, due to the pandemic, we do not have any classes at the jails during this time. Additionally, we currently have an ABE/GED course on our campus. The Adult and Adult High School programs at Whiddon-Rogers Education Center is committed to providing educational services to the inmate population in the four Broward Sheriff's Office (BSO) Jails. At these facilities, we normally provide service to the juveniles in the main jail, high school students, and adults in the other three BSO Jails.

Our Challenge: The challenge we face at Whiddon-Rogers Education Center is that we are not a school with boundaries, which limits the opportunity to provide students with additional school engagements such as after school activities, tutoring services, Saturday school tutoring, etc., which helps to enhance the student's achievement.

Our Leader: Mr. Wylie L. Howard, our principal, with years of experience in Broward County Public Schools, states: "My most significant goal is to create and maintain a safe and results-focused learning environment." Through an effective leadership team and a collaborative environment this goal is accomplished through a sound, competency-based model, which continually strives to meet the needs of our students from an academic and socioemotional perspective

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.

Mission: Our mission at Whiddon-Rogers Education Center is to offer a safe and secure learning environment which affords alternative educational opportunities to a diverse student body and provides the necessary resources to become life-long learners. Goal: Here at Whiddon-Rogers Education Center our goal is to Inspire, Empower, and Transform.

High School Program Goal: Our primary focus is to assist the student in overcoming the barriers to student achievement and any other limitations previously experienced. The curriculum is developed to foster student motivation and successful achievement of the skills and competencies needed to recover credits and grade point average (GPA). Our educational goal is to assist each student in learning the skills and competencies that will lead to grade level promotion and the completion of graduation requirements.

High School Offerings:

- A variety of graduation options
- Online recovery programs
- Smaller class size
- Modified curriculum
- Students learn at their own pace
- Credits issued at the students' own pace
- Graduation requirements are met at the student's pace
- Shared-Time student enrollment
- Career Technical Education (CTE) Programs (Criminal Justice, Culinary Arts, Digital Design, Hospitality and Tourism, Television Production, Information Technology, Music Technology, Building and Construction)
- Elective coursework
- Male/Female Mentoring Programs
- Student clubs and activities
- Career and college fair/field trips

Middle School Academy (MSA) Goal: Our primary goal is to assist each student in learning the skills and competencies that will lead to grade level promotion and the completion of all graduation requirements. The MSA program emphasizes remediation, course recovery, and performance-based instruction. This is achieved through the team-teaching approach. The instructional focus in each class is aligned with district and state standards.

Middle School Academy (MSA) Program Offerings:

- Course recovery for students ages fifteen and older (in grades 7 or 8)
- Life Skills and Wellness (LSW) curriculum for all middle school students
- Opportunity to obtain high school credits
- "School within a school" model providing a small learning community
- Team of highly qualified and experienced administrators, teachers, behavior specialists and family counselors
- General academic courses (Math, Language Arts, Science, Reading, and Social Studies)
- Electives include: Business & Computers, Fine Arts (Music Technology, Digital Design)

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.

Accomplishments: Whiddon-Rogers Education Center has continued to build on our accomplishments and is striving to maintain and exceed them. They include:

- Retain highly qualified staff of 34 with a bachelor's degrees, 35 with a master's degrees, 2 with a specialist's degrees, and 2 with doctorates.
- From 2019-2021, we increased our graduation rate, 17.1% to 32%.
- School-wide bell ringers were created in collaboration with the Literacy Coach and the leadership team to ensure English Language Arts (ELA) best practices were utilized in all subject areas.
- Designed a PLC to ensure context clues, informational text, chunking, and writing strategies are taught across the curriculums.
- In collaboration with the Math Coach and the Leadership team there was an increase in attendance and development of a Canvas review course for the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (PERT) to ensure students maximize the window to graduate. As a result, the PERT passage rate increased from 55% to 70% from 2018-20. In 2020-21, 32% of students passed the PERT and 49% of the students were in attendance.
- Established the English to Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) Academy by implementing weekly tutoring sessions for 60 English Language Learners (ELL) students to build fluency, comprehension and increase test taking skills. As a result, in January 2021, 31 of 60 ELL students (51%) completed the ACCESS 2.0 exam, an increase of 15% from 2020. Also, ELL weekly attendance increased from 15 of the 58 (26%) to 20 (34.5%) students regularly attending the tutoring program since the inception in September 2020.
- Established the Athletic Academy for student athletes and aspiring student athletes with the purpose of inspiring, empowering, and transforming them into leaders and gain sportsmanship abilities. As a result, student attendance increased by 18%.

- Career and Technical Education (CTE) certification programs in collaboration with post-secondary institutions aligned operations, pedagogical practices, data disaggregation, and professional development to state/industry-based standards. As a result, students earned 8 industry certifications in 2016-17, 134 certifications in 2018-19 and 150 certifications in 2020-21.
- Targeted community partnerships with local businesses to develop job-embedded competencies and provide opportunities for student experimental resumes.
- The CTE Showcase, and school-wide College and Career fair was also developed to enhance student career exposure and was attended by over 500 students, community partners, and post-secondary institutions and CTE programs. As a result, we increased our educational business partnerships from four to ten partners and more than ten students were hired for the BET Awards in 2018-19 and Super Bowl LIV in 2019-20.

Additional Information

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

Whiddon-Rogers Education Center offers a variety of clubs, activities, and programs for its students. Although we are a non-traditional school, we provide rich social/extra-curricular experiences for our students throughout the school day hours.

Mentoring services include:

- Target Graduation
- Women of Elegance:
- Women of Tomorrow Mentoring & Scholarship Program (9th-12th grade)
- 5000 Role Models Mentor program
- Fatherhood Program

Clubs include:

- Just Say No!
- LGBTQ
- Distributive Education Clubs of America (DECA)
- Haitian Cultural Club
- Young Wallstreet Club
- Latinos in Action
- Student Security Team

Academies:

- ESOL Academy

Pep Squad Programs that enhance school culture and build staff/student morale include:

- Kids of Character Awards
- Staff Character Awards
- Community Recognition Programs
- Staff/Student Superlatives
- Cultural Awareness Programs & Activities
- Virtual WREC Pep Rallies for all students