



Executive Summary for Olsen Middle School

The Executive Summary (ES) provides the school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form its vision and 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?

Olsen Middle School is a mid-sized, suburban Title I, full-magnet school in coastal Dania Beach, serving approximately 540 students in grades 6–8. The school reflects the diversity of its community, where about 30% of residents are foreign-born and the population is culturally and linguistically rich. A faculty and staff of seventy, including 34 teachers, ensures students and families can connect with staff who reflect the community's diversity. Olsen provides English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities with personalized, data-informed instruction and a broad range of academic and behavioral supports to prepare all students for success in middle school and beyond.

Discussions about potential school closures as part of Broward County Public Schools' "Redefining Our Schools" initiative have affected Olsen's enrollment and community perception. Once serving over 1,000 students, enrollment has declined to approximately 600 due to competition from charter and private schools and family relocations.

As a boutique school, Olsen leverages its size to offer tailored programs that address individual student needs. The school provides rigorous, inclusive instruction through initiatives such as the iCAN Magnet Academies. It uses assessment data to monitor progress, close learning gaps, and ensure each student receives support aligned to their goals. Despite uncertainty about its future, Olsen remains dedicated to serving its diverse student body and upholding high academic and community standards.

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.

Olsen Middle School provides a rigorous curriculum within a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment, guided by the mission, vision, and Viking Values of excellence, respect, and character. As a community-centered school in Dania Beach, the campus offers tailored behavioral and academic supports to ensure success in middle school, high school, higher education, and beyond.

Through the iCAN full-school magnet program, students select from five academies—Business, Education, Hospitality & Tourism, Marine Science & Robotics, and Media & Music—engaging in project-based and blended learning that develops workplace, technology, and collaborative skills. Faculty training in these methodologies aligns instruction with Florida State Standards, while Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) provide data-driven guidance in math and reading. Academic pathways align with South Broward High School, creating a seamless 6–12 progression and preparing students for AP courses and dual enrollment.

Technology enhances instruction and provides targeted remediation to address learning gaps, while reading and writing strategies are integrated across all subjects for continuous practice. A wide range of extracurricular and athletic opportunities—including Chess, Debate, Best Buddies, Vex Robotics, soccer, basketball, and volleyball—supports full participation from all students, including those with disabilities. Strong community partnerships, mentorship, and rigorous academic programs equip students with the skills, knowledge, and experiences necessary for success in high school, higher education, and future careers.

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, Olsen Middle School has made notable strides in student achievement, particularly in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics, as measured by the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST). The school's data-driven approach, including Common Formative Assessments (CFAs) and targeted reading courses, has contributed to increased proficiency, with ELA scores rising from 36% to 43% and Math scores from 29% to 37% between the 2022–23 and 2024–25 school years. Extended Learning Opportunity (ELO) funding has supported English Language Learners, Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students, and Tier II learners, helping close achievement gaps. Additionally, the iCAN magnet academies, including Marine Science & Robotics, provide career-connected learning and specialized pathways aligned with local industries.

Areas for improvement include student attendance, parent involvement, and continued growth in academic proficiency. The school aims to increase the percentage of students meeting or exceeding grade-level expectations in both ELA and Math. Over the next three years, Olsen will enhance data-driven instruction, strengthen community engagement, and implement targeted interventions to improve attendance and student engagement. These efforts ensure a rigorous, inclusive education that prepares all students for success in high school, higher education, and future careers.

Additional Information

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