



Executive Summary for Harbordale 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?

Harbordale Elementary School, nestled in the heart of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, serves students from kindergarten through fifth grade. As part of the Fort Lauderdale Innovation Zone within the Broward County School District, Harbordale is located in the well-established Harbordale neighborhood—just minutes from downtown, Las Olas Boulevard, Port Everglades, and South Florida's iconic beaches. The area's recent construction boom and tourism growth have led to a surge in local families, reflected in rising student enrollment and expanding class sizes.

Currently educating approximately 500 students, Harbordale boasts a diverse student population: 80% White, 28% Hispanic, 11% Black/African American, 6% Multi-Race, and 3% Asian. The school's dedicated team of 60 staff members includes 23 classroom teachers, specialists in special education and speech, specials teachers (Art, PE, Music, Science/Media, Spanish), and classroom assistants. Leadership and support are provided by a Principal, Assistant Principal, ESE Specialist, School Counselor, and Literacy Coach. All instructional staff are highly qualified and committed to student success.

Harbordale's support teams—including clerical, custodial, cafeteria, and safety personnel—play a vital role in maintaining a safe, clean, and nurturing learning environment. The campus, rebuilt 15 years ago, spans three acres and features modern facilities surrounded by residential developments and the 17th Street Causeway.

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 Harbordale Elementary School, our mission is to cultivate academic, social, and emotional excellence within a nurturing and secure environment where every child is empowered to thrive. We are deeply committed to delivering a rich, inclusive curriculum that honors the diverse learning styles and needs of our students. Through high expectations and a balanced approach to enrichment, intervention, and remediation, we ensure that each student receives the support and challenge necessary to reach their fullest potential. Our goal is not only to prepare students for academic success, but to equip them with the life skills and emotional resilience needed to become confident, compassionate, and capable contributors to their community and beyond.

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.

The school proudly earned an “A” rating under Florida’s A+ Plan for the 2024–25 school year and continues to use FAST progress monitoring assessments to guide instruction and support student growth.

Harbordale’s strong partnership with families and the community is exemplified by the Harbordale School Association (H.S.A.), which enhances the home-school connection through generous support, classroom sponsorships, and volunteerism. The school has received the Golden School Award for over 35 consecutive years, recognizing its outstanding volunteer programs and community engagement.

Additional Information

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

Communication is a cornerstone of Harbordale’s success. The school utilizes websites, calendars, bulletins, Class DoJo, Parent-Link, social media, phone blasts, emails, and its WHBD broadcasting system to keep families informed. Students also use Red Folders and planners to strengthen home-school connections and organizational skills.

Safety remains a top priority, with daily presence of a Safe School Armed Guardian and Campus Monitors, secure entry systems, ID badges, and partnerships with local police and fire departments. Annual safety meetings and regular updates reinforce the school’s commitment to a secure environment.

Harbordale also emphasizes life skills and emotional well-being through programs like Zones of Regulation, Sanford Harmony, Mindful Mondays, and Peace Rangers. These initiatives, along with engaging school spirit activities, create a nurturing space where students thrive.

As Harbordale continues to grow and evolve, it remains committed to excellence and community connection—earning its reputation as one of **Fort Lauderdale’s Best Kept Secrets**.