



Executive Summary for Watkins 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?

Watkins Elementary is a neighborhood school located in the Town of Pembroke Park, originally established in 1955 and later reconstructed in 1996. The school serves approximately 340 students, the majority of whom reside in the Town of Pembroke Park and the City of West Park. Serving students from Pre-K through fifth grade, Watkins offers a variety of programs to meet the diverse needs of its population, including two Pre-K ESE classrooms and a specialized program for students with Emotional and Behavioral Disabilities (EBD).

The student body reflects a rich cultural diversity, with 64% identifying as Black/African American, 33% Hispanic, and the remaining identifying as White, Native American, or Multiracial. A significant portion—92%—of students are economically disadvantaged and receive free or reduced lunch. The school is staffed by 20 instructional teachers, two full-time special area teachers, five support staff members, a full-time speech pathologist, one small group intervention teacher, and two ESE Support Facilitators. Additionally, Watkins employs eight teacher assistants dedicated to supporting students in ESE programs and one assistant for general education students. Two bilingual teacher assistants, funded through META, provide academic and social support to students in the ESOL program.

The instructional staff, including teacher assistants, is composed of 62% Black/African American, 20% Hispanic, 5% White, and 13% identifying as other. This culturally responsive team is committed to improving student outcomes and has worked diligently over the years to improve and maintain academic performance. Currently, Watkins holds a school grade of "C" at 53%. Notably, the school earned 427 out of 800 points on the state's accountability scale—just one point short of the 428 needed for a "B" grade.

Planning for academic instruction began early in July, with the leadership team aligning instructional practices to the district's Instructional Focus Calendars, while making strategic adjustments to address the unique needs of Watkins students. The school follows the District Scope and Sequence to remain aligned with the district's assessment calendar. Academic coaches work closely with teachers to ensure effective instructional planning,

particularly for students entering the school year with unfinished learning from the previous grade level. Data-driven instruction is central to the school's approach, using multiple sources of formative data to triangulate student performance and inform classroom strategies.

At the start of the school year, students participated in a series of diagnostic assessments, including the I-Ready AP1 diagnostic in August, the PM1 state assessments in September for ELA and Math (grades K–5), and the Science Baseline Assessment (grades K–5). These tools help teachers design targeted instruction based on each student's academic needs.

Watkins Elementary also emphasizes language development and literacy through its "Linking Languages and Literacy" initiative. The school offers one Dual Language class per grade level from first through fourth grade, providing students the opportunity to read, write, and speak in both English and Spanish. A fully stocked book room offers teachers a wide selection of leveled readers to support differentiated instruction in reading. Since the 2021–2022 school year, Watkins has implemented Benchmark Advance as its core reading curriculum, complemented by additional district-approved resources. A continued focus on the Science of Reading has led to most of the instructional staff completing professional development, with plans in place to train the remaining educators this school year.

In mathematics, the school uses the newly adopted enVision Math curriculum, with most teachers having received professional development through the district's Math Scale-Up initiative. Teachers who have not yet participated, including new staff, are scheduled for training during the current school year. To support science instruction, Watkins utilizes Progress Learning as a Tier 2 intervention platform. Additional supplemental programs such as SuccessMaker, Savvas, I-Ready (for both ELA and Math), Wordly Wise, Scholastic Word, and I-Station (for ELL students) are integrated into instruction to enhance learning and reinforce key skills.

Through early planning, strong instructional alignment, and a commitment to meeting the needs of all learners, Watkins Elementary continues to work toward academic excellence and remains focused on moving beyond its current performance to reach the next level of success.

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.

School Mission – The mission of Watkins Elementary is to create an environment where students exceed the academic expectations set to meet their maximum potential.

School Vision – Creating innovative thinkers for global success!

Watkins Elementary is proud to offer a wide range of programs and services that support both our students and the greater community. Our school day runs from 8:10 a.m. to 2:10 p.m., providing a structured environment where academic achievement and personal growth are top priorities.

We continue to place a strong emphasis on literacy instruction across all grade levels. This year, our teachers will continue utilizing the Benchmark Advance reading series, adopted districtwide in the 2021–2022 school year. This curriculum provides interdisciplinary lessons that integrate science, social studies, and the arts, while also encouraging students to set and work toward their own learning goals. To guide instruction, Watkins follows the Instructional Focus Calendar (IFC) developed by the Elementary Learning Department. While we adhere to the district's overall scope and sequence, we make strategic adjustments to better meet the individual needs of our students. Our teachers also continue to implement effective strategies from Teach Like a Champion, which provide structured techniques for maximizing student engagement and growth. Supplemental resources such as Magnetic Reading further allow for personalized instruction tailored to specific academic needs.

Our school is well-equipped to support digital learning. Each student in grades K–5 has access to their own laptop, creating a true 1:1 digital classroom environment. This technology integration enables students to participate in a variety of adaptive learning programs including i-Ready (ELA and Math), Scholastic Reading, Progress Learning (Science), SuccessMaker, and Savvas for math instruction and assessments. This year, all district-required assessments will be administered through the Performance Matters platform, ensuring consistency and efficiency.

Students also participate in a well-rounded specials rotation that includes both Art and Physical Education. This schedule includes a flexible block where specials teachers provide push-in academic support to selected classrooms. Beyond the school day, we are fortunate to have dedicated staff who lead after-school enrichment programs, offering opportunities in dance, student government, safety patrols, sewing, and mentoring programs for both boys and girls.

One of our standout literacy initiatives is the Chapter One reading program, now in its third year, which targets students in Kindergarten and first grade with daily reading support. In addition, we offer a Book Club for fourth-grade students, led by a dedicated educator who helps students strengthen language and comprehension skills through engaging, high-quality literature.

Our success is also rooted in the strength of our community partnerships. Over the years, we've built valuable relationships with organizations such as BSO (Broward Sheriff's Office), the Town of Pembroke Park, and the City of West Park. Through Title I funding, we continue to benefit from the support of a full-time Community Liaison, who plays a vital role in nurturing these connections. Last year, we welcomed several new partners, including Eric George Funeral Home, Feeding South Florida, Broward County Libraries, Chick-fil-A, and local sports leaders. These partnerships provide critical resources, mentorship, and support that extend well beyond the classroom.

One of the most impactful additions to our campus is the Scholastic Oasis Reading Room, made possible through a collaboration with BSO, Pembroke Park, and West Park. This beautifully designed, calming space is available throughout the day for students and teachers. Volunteers help create an environment where students can read independently, with a partner, or in small groups—fostering both a love for reading and a sense of community.

Another recent initiative that continues to benefit our students is the Reset Room, created by our ESE Specialist. This quiet, supportive space allows students to take short, purposeful breaks to regulate their emotions and return to class ready to learn.

At Watkins Elementary, we remain committed to academic excellence, social-emotional growth, and strong community engagement. Whether through high-quality instruction, innovative programming, or powerful partnerships, we are proud to serve our students and families with dedication, creativity, and care.

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 next three years we are continuing are focus on the number of students who are proficient in the core content areas, but also to ensure that our students are making learning gains. There are many things in place to help support us with this challenge. Our teachers continue to participate in the latest professional development training to build on their knowledge base. Not only do we attend professional learning, but make sure we follow up on the implementation of the training. We have even taken the time to have teams of teachers visit other schools to see programs in full implementation. Some of the best learning is done, by seeing. Over the last few years our coaches have developed collegially relationships with other coaches. This continues this year. The coaches work together to develop resources, center activities and additional training sessions for the teaches. Our goal is to always get better within our craft.

Another area that we continually try to improve is the participation by the parent and community members. In the last two years we have worked to increase the amount of participation are our school. To begin with we created the Parent Universities, now called the Parent Success Academy. This is a series of trainings designed to teach the parent's strategies and activities to use with their children at home. This year we will include morning and evening sessions which will allow us to meet the needs of more families. Additionally, our community liaison has really helped within this area. Last year we held our first annual Fall Festival and it was a huge success. It was a night for the families to come together for some food and fun.

Additional Information

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

Watkins Elementary is an amazing neighborhood school. Our electronic marquee continues to help keep parents and the community updated with the latest news from Watkins. We send a weekly parent link to our families with upcoming events, however the marquee allows us to provide up to date information to our entire community. Our building still looks stunning after the roof and painting makeover. Each year we continue to purchase more library books and new furniture for our media center. With the support of teachers, staff, community and the students we continue to build a community family.