



## Executive Summary for Westwood Heights 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?

Westwood Heights Elementary(WHE) located in Fort Lauderdale, Florida currently serves approximately 545 students from Early Child Education through fifth grade. The school community is predominantly composed of African Americans families from low to moderate income backgrounds. The school population is approximately 88% Black/ African American, 9% Hispanic and 3% multi-racial. Westwood Heights offers a range4 of educational programs across grade levels including:

1. Kindergarten through fifth grade: Three classrooms each for kindergarten, first, second, fourth and fifth grade and four classrooms for third grade.
2. Early Childhood education: The school has two head start classes for four-year-olds, two for three-year-olds, two classrooms serving infants and toddlers, and one classroom dedicated to pre-K ESE learners.
3. Exceptional Student Education(ESE) : Three self-contained classrooms serving students with intellectual disabilities and/ or medically fragile conditions.

### **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.

The mission of Westwood Heights Elementary School is to provide a "Community of Learners" environment where each learner will be encouraged to reach his/her potential academically, socially, and emotionally by reducing distractions and increasing parental engagement. The vision of Westwood Heights Elementary is to provide an environment that fosters personal growth through self-awareness and self-management while engaging in learning focused on real-world experiences designed to close the achievement gaps in ELA, Math, and Science.

## 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.

Westwood Heights earned an “A” for the first time in the school history. **Westwood Heights Elementary** provides academic services to learners from birth through grade 5, allowing us to positively impact students from their earliest years. The school is designated a **Reading Achievement Initiative for Scholastic Achievement (RAISE) school**. Based on the analysis of the 2025 FAST scores:

1. 55% of the students achieved proficiency in ELA
2. 65% of the students achieved proficiency in Mathematics
3. 70% of the students achieved proficiency in Science.

While ELA proficiency improved by 6%, we have not yet reached our target and will therefore continue to prioritize this area. Notably Science scores have continued to show tremendous growth moving from 58% to 70%. To support continued academic growth, **Westwood Heights Elementary will focus on strengthening students Reading skill through**

1. Ongoing professional development for teachers on evidence based instructional strategies
2. Enhanced use of data to drive instruction
3. Access to high quality instructional materials and comprehensive support systems

Additionally, students will benefit from

1. Expanded extracurricular activities
2. Targeted academic interventions through tier one and tier two support
3. Engaging, hands on learning experiences in Science and Mathematics and real-world application.

For the 2025-2026 school year our goal is to maintain the **school grade of “A” by meeting the following performance targets:**

Achievement category	Performance targets Grades 3-5 FAST PM 3 5 <sup>th</sup> . Grade SSA
ELA	60
Mathematics	70
Science	75

### **Additional Information**

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

While our community is vibrant and resilient we also face ongoing challenges that impact student learning:

1. A high level of student mobility, with many families moving frequently
2. A significant percentage of students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch
3. Attendance rates that are lower than neighboring schools
4. A high proportion of families living in rental housing, often with government assistance.

Supporting our educators:

To ensure that our teachers are well equipped to meet the needs of all learners, we provide support through:

1. Implementation of CHAMPS, a proactive classroom approach management framework
2. Ongoing collaboration with district coaches and content area specialists
3. Professional development focused on effective instruction, lesson planning, assessment practices and data decision making.