



Executive Summary for Bright Horizons 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?

Executive Summary

Bright Horizons is a Special Day School, located in Deerfield Beach, Florida, serving approximately 150 students ranging from Kindergarten through age 22 and from diverse multi-cultural backgrounds. (White 27%, Black 47%, Hispanic 24%, Asian 1%, and Multi Racial 2%) Students enrolled at Bright Horizons are classified as Intellectually Disabled, Autistic, Physically Impaired, Other Health Impaired and experience global delays. All students have an IEP (Individual Educational Plan) and many have FBA/PBIPs (Functional Behavior Assessments/Positive Behavior Plans). Bright Horizons School is one of two Special Day Schools located in Broward County serving Intellectually Disabled students. Students residing in Broward County north of Sunrise Blvd. and meeting placement criteria may be staffed into Bright Horizons. Bright Horizons serves the northern half of Broward County as one of two InD center schools in the district. Because of that, Bright Horizons students reflect the demographics of Broward County as a whole. Additionally, it is vital that the staff demographics mirror that of the students. Due to the significant medical needs of the student population, Bright Horizons maintains three registered nurses on staff. Bright Horizons provides academic instruction to students with a focus on increased behavioral and instructional support and accommodations that focus on the individual needs of every student. Students receive speech, physical and occupational therapy services as needed. For students aged 18 to 22, the students participate in a district model, called PASS (Post-Graduate Alternatives for Secondary Students). This program focuses on functional academics, social skills, life skills, and work experience to prepare them for post-secondary independence and community-based instruction, emphasizing real-world skills and community-based instruction. Behavior support staff includes three certified behavior specialists and a robust crisis team who have specialized training in verbal de-escalation techniques and crisis management. Bright Horizons maintains low student to adult ratios in the classrooms. Each class consists of a Special Education Instructor and one or two educational support professionals. The Leadership Team in the school is comprised of the Principal, Assistant Principal, Staffing Specialist, two Autism Coaches, Job Coach and three Behavior Specialists.

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 Bright Horizons School is to provide an individualized, intensive, and supportive education for exceptional students with significant global disabilities.

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.

Bright Horizons' notable achievements in the past three years are adding support staff such as the behavior specialist, and autism coach. These personnel are vital to maintaining adequate support to the classrooms, staff, and students in the entire school due to the very complex individual needs of our students. Other notable achievements include extensive professional within and outside of our school to enhance access point instruction, academic progress monitoring, and data-based problem solving. Bright Horizons School uses Unique Learning Systems, an academic curriculum geared towards students with varying learning abilities that is aligned with academic standards. In order to meet the complex learning needs of our students, focus on providing our students with various aids, adaptive tools, and learning materials. Furthermore, Promethean boards were purchased to increase student access to all online curriculums and activities, as our students are largely engaged in interactive methods of learning. Due to our student body's complex learning needs, we are always striving for innovative ways to engage our students in learning opportunities. We were able to use funds provided through our Parent Teacher Organization to help expand various programs that benefit our students. Accountability funds allowed us to purchase a math curriculum geared towards the unique needs of our students that was rolled out to all teachers this year and will be a large focus within our school PLC's. We continue to strive to provide interactive and engaging learning experiences through various inschool field trips, such as the

planetarium, marionettes, The G.A.B.I.E. Bus, and musical groups that represent the diverse community during Hispanic heritage month and Black history month celebrations. Within our existing and extensive Community Based Instruction program, we have added a special community engagement program with adult day training programs so that we may prepare our students for life after graduation. As our students ages 12 and older have IEP goals that directly align to learning within a community setting, it is crucial that our students are provided this opportunity.

Areas of Improvement:

Due to our FAA results from last year, we will continue to focus on progress monitoring, lesson planning, classroom instruction, staff professional development, and acquisition of appropriate academic resources to improve our schools for this school year.

Additional Information

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

The Life Skills and Wellness initiative has become a staple in our school. Addressing the whole student with LSW provides the foundation for students' academic performance and the development of skills. Different forms of meditation such as mindfulness, movement, mantra, and loving-kindness meditation are provided in each classroom and throughout the school. As a school, we participated in activities like The Great Kindness Challenge to promote Life Skills and Wellness (LSW) which helps manage emotions, set and achieve positive goals, and builds morale and collaboration with students and staff.