



## Executive Summary for The Quest Center

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?

The Quest Center is a Special Day School located in Hollywood, Florida, serving approximately 104 students ranging from Kindergarten through age 22 and from diverse, multicultural backgrounds. Students enrolled at The Quest Center are classified as Intellectually Disabled, have Autism Spectrum Disability, Physically Impaired, have Traumatic Brain Injury, and experience global delays. All students have an IEP (Individual Educational Plan), and many have FBA/PBIPs (Functional Behavior Assessments/Positive Behavior Plans).

The Quest Center is one of two Special Day Schools located in Broward County serving Intellectually Disabled students. Broward County Students residing south of Sunrise Boulevard who meet placement criteria qualify for enrollment in The Quest Center. The Quest Center is not a neighborhood school, yet, serves the northern half of Broward County.

Because of that, The Quest Center students reflect the demographics of Broward County as a whole. Additionally, the staff demographics mirror that of the students. During the last three years, the only changes experienced by The Quest Center have been students entering or exiting due to changes in their address or natural attrition.

The Quest Center Leadership Team consists of Andrea Swift, Principal, Celeste Humphrey, Assistant Principal, Leigh Townley, ESE Specialist, Ivy Pratt, Curriculum Facilitator, Patricia Kujack, Autism Coach, De Anna Nieves, Behavior Specialist.

## **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.

Our mission statement is: "To provide an environment in which all children can realize their highest potential through the joint commitment of home, school, and community." At The Quest Center, we believe that education should equip students to adjust to their ever-changing lives, to their body's growth, to shifting personal relationships, to varying responsibilities, and to different lifestyles. Our students learn what it is like to belong in a society, not to be on the fringe; to participate, not to be a spectator; to be appreciated as contributing members of our society, not to be merely tolerated. We believe also that we must dedicate ourselves to fostering enthusiasm in our students, staff, parents, and community. We believe the process of education must furnish every student with an optimal sequence of instructional experiences. This will enable students to achieve mastery of the goals necessary for their cognitive, vocational, social, and emotional growth. The optimum sequence for each students must be planned not only in accordance with the nature of the material but also in accordance with each stage of development, learning style, and individual characteristics. Believe the process of education must provide for the effective expansion of cognition, personality and character. Every student must be encouraged to be confident!

## **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 Quest Center is a remarkable place, our school continues to excel both academically and in the community. We are able to achieve these feats via an amazing partnership with our families and community. Recently, we have received First Place in the City of Hollywood Video Contest for Best Video highlighting aquatic and music therapy with our students showing innovating programs that The Quest Center offers. We have also received numerous grants that support student achievement and integration of new technologies and programs to improve student participation and learning opportunities. Many grants support the production of our Spring Show. Our annual Spring Show is viewed by numerous district and community stakeholders, students display their many abilities.

As for student learning and achievement, we have experienced student learning gains ranging from 24%-55% in both ELA and Mathematics. Annual various students participate in the District's Science Fair receiving an opportunity to display class projects that display students' exploration of the scientific method. Our students have received District recognition. We have recognized Student of the Month honors for Kids

of Character. We had also successfully matriculated seven students back to their home schools over the last four years with the implementation of structured behavior and social skills training. Recent school improvements entail student learning being a priority while ensuring high quality instruction is delivered each day. The Quest Center has improved and made positive gains over multiple years with the receipt of A-Plus Money. In addition, various teachers and paraprofessionals have participated in District training and professional development opportunities to bring new techniques and innovating teaching applications back to The Quest to provide to our students. Our overall goal is to improve our School Rating to Commendable and assist general education settings and district staff with providing high quality instruction for not only our students but students with severe and profound cognitive disabilities throughout our District.

### **Additional Information**

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

We believe that The Quest Center personifies the outward expression of the belief that all students can learn. We provide an optimal learning environment for students needing intensive services in behavior and all academic areas. As a school leadership team, we program and facilitate learning for both students and adults that enhance the professional and personal development of school staff. We welcome our parents, community, and fellow BCPS employees; it is our continuous goal to be a beacon to the community.