



## Executive Summary for **North Fork Elementary**

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?

Founded in 1948, North Fork Elementary is west of downtown Fort Lauderdale, in the Dorsey River bend community near the North Fork River. This brackish water system attracts hundreds of tropical animals that reside on our school property. Moreover, it was discovered that the land the school is located on was an ancient Indian burial site. Ensclosed in this diverse habitat and historically rich environment, North Fork Elementary was founded as a STEM science academy: all students participate in growing edible gardens; students in grades three and four focus on the local environment, studying the effects of pollution and weather changes; and fifth graders learn about the world through interactive science expeditions and hands-on projects.

North Fork services a predominantly African American, lower socio-economic community (Ninety-six percent of the students are economically disadvantaged receiving free or reduced lunch), and the Salvation Army transitional housing residents. Of the approximately 385 students who attend the school, demographically, 79% are African Americans, 11% Hispanics 9% Caucasian, and 1% multiracial or Native American. Ten percent of the students are English Language Learners and 15% of the total population are students with disabilities.

Demographically, the staff of the school almost parallels the student body. There are 36 instructional staff members: 83 % African American; 10% White; and 7% Hispanic. 34% of the instructional staff have advanced degrees, 10% percent have one to five years of teaching experience, and 90% have six or more years of teaching experience.

## 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 North Fork, we aim to provide a stimulating, safe and optimal learning environment that sets high expectations for each student to become creative, responsible, and productive individuals in today's changing society. At North Fork elementary, we embrace Broward County's values that:

- All students will learn when their individual needs are met
- Learning is a lifelong process
- Every student has a right to a high-quality educational option
- Engaged families combined with highly effective teachers and school leaders are the core components of a successful school
- Positive character education is essential to whole child development
- The diversity of our students is valuable and must be embraced
- Students must be prepared as innovative thinkers and responsible citizens to compete in a global economy
- High-quality customer service is a critical component of high-quality education
- Respect and dignity are critical, both in and out of the classroom
- Everyone (school, home, students and community) must contribute to and be held accountable for student achievement.

On a weekly basis we offer extra-curricular enrichment programs to enhance student learning and foster a love of learning through art, drama, dance, basketball, and gardening. We aim to develop self-sufficient responsible citizens.

## 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.

North Fork Elementary is a proud recipient of several grants for our edible gardens. Our teachers have received TDIF grants to improve learning and expand their professional experiences. Because of our enrichment program, our students created an edible garden where our school was nominated for the P3 Eco-Challenge award. Parental Involvement was and remains an area of improvement for our school. We have implemented a parent resource center, parent workshops and improved communication between home and school through our parent link system, newsletters, and flyers. We continuously encourage parents to become active partners in our school. Future goals we strive to accomplish in the next three years include, expanding our edible gardens for community consumption and establishing more coding classes/technology integration. In achieving these goals, we will address areas of science instruction and achievement deficits, technology use and integration, and increased integration of critical thinking skills. Finally, our primary focus is to improve student achievement.

## 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 community and our partners in Education have joined North Fork in helping to create an environment where children feel safe and loved. Through our partnership with Calvary Chapel, Lion's Club and the City of Fort Lauderdale they provide multiple support to our students, families, and staff. The Mocombeian Foundation, Inc., provides its Mocombe's Reading Room Series to help improve the literacy scores. The employees in the Districts' Student Services department have partnered with our school to provide one-to-one mentoring for our at-risk students as well as other Mentors from the community. Students in the Urban Teacher Apprentice Program have joined with our primary students and teachers to offer tutoring services twice a month in reading and math.