



Executive Summary for Banyan 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?

Banyan Elementary is a Title I public school located in Sunrise, Florida, serving approximately 390 students in grades Pre-K through 5. The school is part of Broward County Public Schools, one of the largest and most diverse school districts in the nation. With a staff of highly dedicated educators, support personnel, and administrators, Banyan prides itself on fostering a nurturing, inclusive, and academically rigorous environment for all learners. The school is situated in the heart of Sunrise, a diverse suburban community in western Broward County. Sunrise has grown over the past decade into a family-oriented city with strong cultural and ethnic diversity, representing a blend of Caribbean, Hispanic/Latino, African American, and multi-generational families. The surrounding community includes working-class and middle-class neighborhoods, with families employed across service, healthcare, retail, and professional industries. In the last three years, Banyan Elementary has undergone meaningful changes:

- A rebranding initiative, transitioning from the “Braves” to the “**Bulldogs**” to ensure cultural sensitivity and inclusivity, accompanied by a new mascot, school colors (royal blue and white), and a race-car inspired theme to build school spirit.
- Academic focus on reversing a **decline in English Language Arts proficiency** (from 63% to 58% in 2024–25), with a strategic goal of raising proficiency back to 63% by 2026.
- Expanded professional development for teachers in small-group instruction, vocabulary development, writing across grade levels, and early literacy interventions (UFLI and Walk-to-Read).
- Increased family and community engagement through re-energized events, volunteer programs, and partnerships with local high schools and businesses.

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 is providing quality instruction, empower students with the tools they need to achieve success, and develop well-rounded productive citizens, while preparing them to be adaptive lifelong learners. At Banyan Elementary, we are committed to fostering a nurturing, inclusive, and high-performing learning environment where every student is empowered to thrive, academically, socially, and emotionally. We offer daily school-wide ELA/Reading initiatives like “Bulldog Word Boost,” Walk-to-Read, and UFLI programs in primary grades to support early literacy foundations and vocabulary development.

At Banyan, we offer small group instruction (What I Need Block): Personalized instruction that ensures students receive targeted support or enrichment based on their individual needs. Writing Across the Curriculum: Students are expected to write, reflect, and communicate across all subject areas, strengthening critical thinking and expression. Data-Driven Instruction: Teachers use unit assessments, progress monitoring, and data chats to guide instruction and provide timely interventions. Family & Community Engagement: Programs such as Meet the Principal Night, volunteer initiatives, academic nights, and partnerships with Piper High School and businesses connect learning to the broader community. We expect our students to Demonstrate Bulldog PRIDE (Perseverance, Respect, Integrity, Determination, Excellence) in academics, behavior, and citizenship. Actively engage in learning tasks aligned to rigorous standards. Participate in small-group and collaborative learning opportunities. Strive to improve daily through effort, reflection, and resilience. Contribute to a safe, respectful, and inclusive school community.

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.

Banyan maintained an **“A” school grade** from the Florida Department of Education, reflecting consistent academic growth and schoolwide commitment to excellence.

- Achieved notable gains in mathematics and science proficiency in specific grade levels, despite statewide fluctuations.
- Implemented effective intervention systems that reduced course failures in core content areas.

Literacy & Instructional Practices

- Launched a schoolwide **literacy initiative**, including “Bulldog Word Boost,” daily small-group instruction, and expanded writing across grade levels.

- Integrated **UFLI and Walk-to-Read** programs in primary grades to strengthen foundational literacy, showing promising early results.
- Increased alignment of instruction to the rigor of the B.E.S.T. standards through targeted professional development and instructional coaching cycles.
- Successfully **rebranded** the school from the Braves to the Bulldogs, creating a culturally sensitive identity that fosters inclusivity, pride, and renewed spirit.
- Strengthened **community partnerships** with Piper High schools, businesses, and organizations to support staff recognition, student incentives, and family events.
- Enhanced **family engagement** through events such as Meet the Principal Night, academic showcases, and celebrations of student achievements.

Improvement Goals (Next Three Years)

• Academic Achievement

- **ELA Proficiency Goal:** Raise 3rd–5th grade ELA proficiency back to at least 63% by May 2026 through small-group instruction, vocabulary initiatives, and writing integration.
- Expand math and science enrichment opportunities while ensuring equity in accelerated programs.
- Strengthen vertical alignment across grade levels to reduce learning gaps.

• Student Engagement & Well-Being

- Implement **tiered behavior supports** and proactive interventions to reduce suspensions and referrals.
- Expand SEL (Social-Emotional Learning) practices to build resilience, empathy, and self-regulation skills in all students.
- Increase access to extracurricular and enrichment opportunities that connect academics to real-world applications.

• Attendance & Stability

- Reduce chronic absenteeism by increasing parent outreach, incentives, and community partnerships that address barriers to attendance.
- Provide support for families with high mobility to ensure smooth academic transitions for students.

• Equity & Inclusion

- Narrow achievement gaps for ELLs and students with disabilities by increasing targeted support, co-teaching models, and data-driven interventions.

Additional Information

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

Ensuring a safe and welcoming environment is a top priority. Recent and upcoming projects include upgrades to window wraps, security monitoring, and campus improvements. Future goals include adding features such as an air-conditioned golf cart to enhance security and accessibility. Banyan thrives because of its partnerships. We continue to grow relationships with Piper High, local businesses, and civic organizations who contribute resources, mentorship,

and support for school events, academic initiatives, and student incentives. While we celebrate our achievements, Banyan is focused on continuous growth. From literacy interventions to teacher development, from family engagement to innovative safety solutions, our community can be assured that Banyan will never stop striving for excellence.