



## Executive Summary for Sea Castle 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?

Sea Castle Elementary is a Title I school located in Miramar, Florida, serving approximately 920 students from pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. The school offers general education classes across all grade levels, special programs for students with autism (autism clusters), a dual language program from first through third grade, and gifted/high-achieving classes from first through fifth grade. The student population is diverse, consisting of 67.4% Black/African American, 23.6% Hispanic, 6.3% Asian, 1.5% Caucasian, and 1.2% multiracial or other subgroup students. The administrative team includes Principal Dr. Latonya L. Cooper and Assistant Principal Mrs. Gina Kerkerian. Supporting the school's academic and social-emotional development efforts is a comprehensive leadership team made up of two academic coaches (Literacy/ELA), an Exceptional Student Education (ESE) specialist, two school counselors, a social worker, a school psychologist, two ESE interventionists, an autism (ASD) coach, and a school resource officer. The instructional staff consists of 48 classroom teachers, including three pre-kindergarten and two Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) classes. Kindergarten includes five general education classes, one of which is part of the dual language program. First and second grades each have seven general education classes, including one dual language class per grade, while third grade has six general education classes with one dual language class. Fourth grade has six general education classes, and fifth grade has five. The autism clusters are divided by grade bands: kindergarten–first, second–third, and fourth–fifth. In addition, the school offers enrichment through four special area teachers: two physical education instructors, one media specialist, and one music teacher

## 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.

Sea Castle Elementary School's vision is to foster a Growth Mindset environment where all scholars are empowered to achieve their BEST. The school is deeply committed to helping students succeed by encouraging hard work, perseverance, and maximum effort. Guided by the core belief that "everything is possible with P.R.I.D.E."—Perseverance with Respect, Integrity, and Discipline in Everything—Sea Castle emphasizes the development of resilience and grit in every student. To support this mission, the school implements growth mindset strategies, integrates social-emotional learning, and continuously works to strengthen parental involvement.

To cultivate a love of reading and close literacy gaps, Sea Castle Elementary implements the district-adopted *Benchmark Advance* reading program along with a range of resources and targeted interventions. This model includes instruction in phonics, fluency, comprehension, word study, and guided writing through small-group settings and grade-level units of study. Teachers have received professional development from district trainers and are currently undergoing training in the Science of Reading (SOR) model. All Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) at the school are structured around reading and science resources to support the effective implementation of guided reading practices.

In writing, fourth and fifth-grade teachers have been trained in the components of expository, opinion, and informative writing aligned to the Florida Standards. A guided writing continuum has also been developed for students in kindergarten through third grade, reinforcing key skills such as word study, sight words, spelling patterns, grammar, and the use of text evidence.

In mathematics, Sea Castle uses the *Envision* math program and the *Savvas Math Trainer*, an online tool that aligns with Florida Standards and Progress Monitoring (PM) assessments. This tool adapts instruction based on student performance, offering targeted lessons for either remediation or enrichment and enabling teachers to monitor progress by specific standards.

To address academic gaps, the school implements several intervention programs:

- **Phonics for Reading:** Used with students in grades 2–5 who struggle with fluency and phonics, this program includes screening tools, individual lessons, and progress monitoring.
- **Rewards Program:** A phonics-based program for grades 3–5 that offers advanced support, ensuring a continuum of phonics intervention throughout the school.
- **Teacher Toolbox:** A digital collection of standards-based resources teachers can use to introduce new concepts, reteach material, or build foundational skills.
- **iReady Personalized Online Instruction:** This platform uses data from the iReady Diagnostic to deliver personalized learning paths tailored to each student's needs, balancing academic rigor with accessibility. It is evidence-based and aligned with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA).

Sea Castle Elementary also offers a range of service delivery models to ensure Exceptional Student Education (ESE) students receive support in the least restrictive environment while maximizing their opportunity for success:

- **Consultation Services:** For students who are on or above grade level, including gifted learners, who require minimal support to maintain academic growth.
- **Collaboration Services:** For students slightly below grade level, offering targeted support to bridge

learning gaps.

- **Pullout Services:** For students performing 2–3 years below grade level, providing focused interventions using research-based instructional programs.

-**Cluster Classes:** Designed for students needing intensive support across academic, social-emotional, communication, and independent functioning domains. These classes are led by autism-endorsed teachers and utilize specialized programs such as *Reading Mastery* and *Touch Math*. Regular parent meetings and training sessions are held to keep families informed and engaged in their children’s progress.

## 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.

Notable Achievements:

- “A” Rated School
- Turn Around Arts and National Symphony Participant
- AT&T Impact Technology Grant Recipient
- Conmigo Kemper Foundation Grant Winner, \$10,000.
- Dual Language Curriculum Grades 3-5
- Teachers are TDIF Grant Recipients
- Butterfly Project Grant Winners and Recipient
- Gems and Gents Mentor Program (Partnership with City of Miramar)
- Elinor Adler “Pat on the Back” Award recipients
- Superior Performance Recipient

Areas of Improvement:

- Continue to bridge gaps for scholars in the lowest quartile and Exceptional Student (ESSA)
- Students becoming increasingly aware of their learning and set goals and benchmarks
- Tier 1 instruction is at its optimum with instructional cycles containing standards-based instruction, formative and summative assessments

## Additional Information

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

**Sunshine After School Child Care** has proudly served as Sea Castle Elementary’s after-school care provider since 2003. Through a strong community partnership, Sunshine demonstrates an ongoing commitment to supporting Sea Castle families by offering scholarships to those in need, providing food and toys during the holidays, and contributing in many other meaningful ways. Sunshine supports families by addressing children’s emotional, academic, physical, and social development

needs. As an active Partner in Education, Sunshine also provides discretionary financial assistance to the school, allowing Sea Castle to recognize staff for special occasions, reward students with incentives, and help fund academic programs and other student-centered initiatives throughout the year. Additionally, Sunshine supplies a dedicated staff member to assist in the cafeteria during lunch hours year-round. Sunshine staff members are actively involved in school life, serving on the School Advisory Council (SAC), participating as guest speakers during VIP Reading Days and Career Days, and volunteering at school events to support families and enhance the Sea Castle community.

### **Extracurricular Opportunities at Sea Castle Elementary School:**

#### **Sea Castle Choir**

The Sea Castle Choir offers students the opportunity to develop their vocal talents, refine choral techniques, and explore various musical styles and elements. Beyond musical growth, the choir fosters lifelong learning by promoting collaboration, confidence, community engagement, and the development of both social and academic skills. Choir members perform multiple times each year at Sea Castle, at other schools, and at events within the Miramar community-strengthening connections between the school, families, and the community.

#### **S.O.A.R. (Sponsored by the School Resource Officer)**

The S.O.A.R. program is designed for fifth-grade students and focuses on educating scholars about bullying prevention, substance abuse, and the legal system. Students learn about the importance of positive behavior and the consequences of unlawful actions. The program encourages students to make responsible choices and become informed, respectful citizens.

#### **WSEA Morning News Crew**

Sponsored by Media Specialist Mrs. Chandler, this club allows fifth-grade students to produce and broadcast the school's daily morning announcements. Students operate cameras, write scripts, and work as a team to deliver news to the entire school. This program fosters responsibility, collaboration, and communication skills. Participants are expected to maintain at least a "C" average and consistently demonstrate positive behavior.

#### **Sea Castle Safety Patrols**

Sponsored by Coach Tate and Coach White, the Safety Patrol program is open to fifth-grade students who are committed to modeling exemplary behavior and leadership. Safety Patrol members help monitor hallway behavior from 7:30–8:00 a.m., encouraging responsibility, teamwork, and school pride. Students in this role must maintain a "C" average and uphold high behavioral standards.