



Executive Summary for **Silver Palms 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?

Silver Palms Elementary is a high-performing, **A-rated** public school located in the vibrant city of Pembroke Pines, Florida, serving approximately 450 students in grades Pre-K through 5. The surrounding neighborhood blends family-oriented residential areas with a rich mix of cultures and professions, including education, healthcare, technology, and service industries.

The school's student body reflects the community's diversity:

- 51 % Hispanic/Latino
- 24 % Black/African American
- 17 % White (non-Hispanic)
- 6 % Asian
- 2 % multiracial
- 0.2 % American Indian/Alaska Native

About 46 % of students speak another language, and the school celebrates many home languages, with Spanish being the most common. Overall, minority enrollment is 83 %, significantly higher than Florida's state average of about 65 %. Silver Palms employs a dedicated staff of 62 people including classroom teachers, specialists, and paraprofessionals. Silver Palms' teachers are highly qualified, many hold advanced degrees, and all are endorsed in ESOL, many are Reading, and Gifted endorsed. During the past three years the school has strengthened its instructional team through targeted professional development and strategic recruitment of educators to meet the needs of a diverse community.

Community Context and Challenges

Silver Palms benefits from strong family engagement and robust partnerships with local businesses and civic groups. The school also navigates challenges such as housing mobility, which can affect enrollment stability, and the ongoing need to close achievement gaps for English language learners and economically disadvantaged students.

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.

Purpose and Program Overview

The purpose of Silver Palms Elementary is to provide every student with an individualized, high-quality learning experience that supports academic proficiency at and above grade level within a safe, healthy, kind, and respectful environment that celebrates cultural and ethnic diversity. This purpose is achieved by staying true to the mission, vision, and values collaboratively established by all stakeholders.

Mission

To involve and inspire the entire school community to:

- Provide a safe, secure, and rigorous educational experience through engaging, student-centered opportunities.
- Cultivate students' abilities to think critically, collaborate effectively, and communicate confidently to thrive in the global 21st-century workforce.
- Develop responsible citizens prepared for an ever-changing, technology-rich, and diverse society.
- Celebrate cultural and ethnic differences while embedding social-emotional learning for students, teachers, and all stakeholders.

Vision

Preparing for Tomorrow through Excellence Today.

Core Values

Silver Palms Elementary lives its mission and vision through a strong set of values:

- **Excellence in Learning:** Engage students in high-quality, standards-based instruction and enrichment.
- **Collaboration & Best Practices:** Share expertise and foster teamwork among educators and families.
- **Accountability & Commitment:** Demonstrate passion, dedication, and professionalism in every role.
- **Diversity & Inclusivity:** Celebrate and respect ethnic and cultural diversity within the school community.
- **Professionalism:** Model exemplary conduct, appearance, and work ethic.

Schoolwide Recognition and Programs

Silver Palms has been recognized by the **Florida Department of Education (FLDOE)** as an **"A" school since 2003–2004**, with the exception of 2016–2017 when the school earned a "B" as a result of targeted academic improvements. During that time, Silver Palms' overall score placed it in the **top 12% of all 177 Broward County public and charter schools**. By the 2021–2022 school year, the school once again achieved and has since maintained its **"A" status**.

To enrich the student experience and strengthen community connections, Silver Palms offers a wide range of academic and community programs:

- Family and community events such as Publix Family Math Night, Reading Under the Stars, Fall and Spring Book Fairs, PTA events, Fun Fridays, and Fun Day.
- Community service initiatives including the Thanksgiving Harvest Drive and Toys for Tots.
- Robust school–home communication through quarterly newsletters, weekly Kindness Community messages, ParentLink calls, emails, texts, an updated website, and a school marquee.

Instructional Program

Silver Palms provides a **comprehensive Pre-K–5 curriculum** designed to meet diverse learning needs:

- Prekindergarten services for children with developmental delays in communication and students with varying exceptionalities, including the addition of one VPK class in 2018–2019.
- Kindergarten through fifth grade core instruction in reading, language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.
- Daily 30-minute specials, including music and physical education, rotating on a two-day schedule.
- Technology-infused, blended learning to enhance engagement and deepen understanding.

This combination of rigorous academics, strong community involvement, and highly qualified, compassionate educators makes Silver Palms Elementary a uniquely supportive and inspiring place for children to learn and grow.

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

Academic Excellence and Enrichment

Silver Palms Elementary is widely recognized for its outstanding academic programs, which include a Dual Language (English/Spanish) program and Gifted/High-Achieving classes that challenge and support advanced learners. The school provides blended learning opportunities through initiatives such as Accelerated Reader, i-Ready, Career Day, and project-based learning, ensuring instruction that is both rigorous and engaging.

Students benefit from a variety of specialized academic experiences, including:

- Math competitions for fourth and fifth graders
- STEM programs and a volunteer-supported fluency initiative
- Junior Achievement BizTown for fifth grade, promoting financial literacy and entrepreneurship

Silver Palms is also home to award-winning clubs that enhance creativity, teamwork, and critical thinking. These include Chorus, Debate, SECME, VEX Robotics, Chess Club, Math Club, and Fine Arts Club.

Notably, VEX Robotics qualified for the VEX Robotics World Championship in both the 2023–2024 and 2024–2025 school years, a testament to the program's excellence and the students' innovation and perseverance.

In 2023–2024, the school launched the Enrichment Master's Program, offering innovative extracurricular opportunities such as basketball, flag football, graphic design, fashion design, and more, expanding students' access to both arts and athletics.

Kindness-Centered, Bully-Free Culture

Equally notable is Silver Palms' kind and respectful culture, which serves as the foundation for its safe and secure learning environment. Schoolwide expectations, co-created by teachers, staff, parents, and students, are explicitly taught and modeled, fostering a campus where kindness, respect, and responsibility are daily practices.

Silver Palms is a No Place for Hate® school, reflecting its firm commitment to inclusion and equity. Bullying, harassment, and discrimination are not tolerated in any form. Through proactive education and consistent reinforcement of expectations, students learn to value differences and support one another, developing into confident, caring, and compassionate learners who love their school and their community.

Additional Information

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

Instructional Program, Staff, Community Engagement, and High-Quality Data-Driven Instruction

Instruction at Silver Palms Elementary is data- and standards-driven, guided by the F.A.S.T. (Florida Assessment of Student Thinking) standards to ensure alignment with state expectations. Teachers use differentiated instruction to meet individual student needs and monitor progress toward grade-level proficiency and beyond. Class sizes remain favorable, with an 18:1 student–teacher ratio in kindergarten through third grade and 22:1 in fourth and fifth grade, allowing for strong relationships and targeted support.

The school offers three key specialized programs:

- Exceptional Student Education (ESE)
- English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL)
- Dual-Language (English/Spanish)

All faculty members are highly qualified and state-certified, with several earning National Board Certification. The entire instructional team embraces the philosophy of “doing what is best for children,” working diligently to ensure students receive engaging, high-quality instruction. Well-established processes support continuous school improvement with a consistent emphasis on student achievement.

Professional Collaboration and Growth

Silver Palms benefits from low teacher turnover, enabling long-term school improvement initiatives and stable instructional practices. Faculty members participate in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to reflect on professional practices, collaborate, and share best strategies. Assessments are implemented regularly to monitor student learning and adjust curriculum and instruction as needed. School administrators actively monitor PLCs to ensure their effectiveness and impact on achievement.

Family and Community Partnership

The Parent/Teacher Association (PTA) and Partners in Education play a vital role in supporting the school through volunteer programs and fundraising activities. Signature community events—such as Publix Family Math Night, Curriculum Nights, and Reading Under the Stars—foster strong connections between home and school. Even during the 2020–2021 school year, when in-person gatherings were restricted, these events were successfully adapted to virtual formats.

Communication with families is consistent and multi-faceted. The school provides quarterly newsletters with calendars of events and grade-level highlights and sends weekly messages to the Kindness Community. A ParentLink system delivers timely automated calls, emails, and texts, while the school website and marquee are updated frequently to keep parents and community members informed.

Awards and Recognition

Silver Palms’ culture of excellence and community engagement is reflected in numerous accolades:

- The Golden School Award, earned annually for volunteer service hours that exceed twice the number of enrolled students.
- Designation as a 21st Century School, honoring teachers who incorporate technology standards and model effective technology use for students.
- The Broward Education Foundation Involvement Award, recognizing exceptional staff participation in charitable contributions.
- Consistent recognition of student programs, including the VEX Robotics teams (which qualified for the VEX Robotics World Championship in 2023–2024 and 2024–2025), Debate Team, Chess Club, and Music Chorus, all of which are award-winning and highly regarded across district and regional competitions.