



Executive Summary for Rock Island 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?

Rock Island Elementary serves students from Pre-K to 5th Grade. Our current student population is comprised of 508 students. The school demographic makeup is 89% African-American and 10% Hispanic. Over the past three years the school's student achievement rates have remained low. Based on the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (F.A.S.T.) from 2023-2024 school year, 43% of our scholars were proficient in ELA, 44% of scholars were proficient in mathematics, and 34% were proficient in science. It is a priority to provide robust professional development to our teachers and staff and to increase extended learning opportunities for students. The school's staff is comprised of 24 classroom teachers, instructional coaches, administrators, and other support staff that also resemble the demographics of the students. Rock Island Elementary is in Fort Lauderdale, Florida in the 33311. The school's zip code is significant because of the community that the school serves. The community itself is one that is surrounded by warehouses, industrial parks, abandoned lots and numerous strip malls housing small businesses. Our parents face various challenges to make a better life for their children as they deal with many extraordinary circumstances that make it difficult for some of our families to put education at the forefront. This struggle is made even more difficult by the number of single parent households, parents who work multiple jobs and the overwhelming poverty that most of our students live in. Cumulatively, this means that many of the school's students exhibit learning gaps in comparison to other students within the district and lack many of the support systems needed to do well in school.

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.

Rock Island Elementary School's vision is to be recognized as the premier destination of excellence in education, while developing innovative thinkers that will impact their community and beyond. Rock Island's mission is to be committed to igniting a love of learning in every scholar, while giving them the capability to succeed in a diverse 21st century world. Our focus at Rock Island is closing the literacy gap for our students. To do this staff has engaged in several professional development opportunities structured around diagnostic reading assessments, the stages of reading development, and the Science of Reading as a strategy to meet every child where they are and to move them along the reading continuum to grade level. In addition, the RtI process is also closely monitored to ensure that we are identifying the necessary strategies for students to make progress both academically and behaviorally. Rock Island Elementary also has invested a great deal of resources in the development of science, engineering and computer science. Most recently the school has instituted a science lab where students make weekly visits to engage in science and the scientific process. Lastly, the school's staff believes deeply that we must address the whole child if we are to realize the academic achievement we aspire to. The leadership and faculty have been sure to deliver learning experiences centered around life skills and wellness and to be mindful of building each student's confidence with frequent praise and acknowledgement. One way the school accomplishes this is with a daily "Morning Meeting" where teachers take time to build community in the classroom, discuss issues that are meaningful to the class and to set the tone for a positive day. The school staff also believes deeply in engaging parents in the educational process. Beyond the norms of required parent teacher conference, the faculty makes frequent contact with parents in relation to both concerns and areas for praise. One of our most significant challenges is finding ways to gain the support among our students' parents and or guardians. To this we offer monthly parent nights and in addition also provide parents with opportunities to network with other families and the staff here at Rock Island.

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.

Although challenges were experienced, there have been achievements made that have positioned the school to experience future academic success. The school received an 'A' rating from the Florida Department of Education for the 2024 – 2025 school year. The most significant factors of this achievement has been the school's effort to increase the efficiency of the teachers in the building. This has been accomplished through developing the practice of collecting and analyzing student data to make better-informed decisions about the instruction being provided in the classroom. Teachers have developed SMART goals and have tracked student progress at preselected intervals relative to those goals that both monitor student practice, but also provide feedback relative to the effectiveness of each teacher's instructional practices. Teachers have also engaged in the professional learning communities where

they have become more familiar with the notion of collaborative planning. Every subject area is a focus. Therefore, the use of professional development to improve instructional pedagogy will be a tool to meet the academic goals set forth. The Benchmark Advance reading series and enVision math program will be utilized to fidelity to close learning gaps. Technology programs such as i-Ready and Successmaker will serve as supplemental resources to help close academic achievement gaps among students. Our instructional staff will receive literacy and mathematics professional development that focuses on pedagogy and best practices to further increase 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.