



Executive Summary for Challenger 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?

Challenger Elementary is one of two public elementary schools located in the city of Tamarac. The population of Tamarac is approximately 73,000 and has changed greatly from a retirement community to the average age dropping 10.5 years. With housing expansions in place, the percentage of city residents outside of retirement age is set to expand.

Challenger Elementary welcomes a population of approximately 99 staff members and 789 students ranging from Pre-K to Grade Five. We are home to a culturally rich demographic which breaks down as follows: 51% African American, 31% Hispanic, 11% White, 3% Asian or Pacific Islander, 3% Multi-ethnic and 1% American Indian or Alaska Native. Our male students make up 55% percent of our population, and females account for 45%. Our inclusive environment nurtures not only a general education body of students, but those representing a variety of subgroups such as 222 students with a disability, 130 English language learners, and 37 students identified as gifted. Approximately 81% of the total student body qualifies for free and reduced lunch which qualifies Challenger to receive Title I funding. Challenger also welcomes students outside of our boundary as we accept reassignments which accounts for 313 students.

There are 61 classrooms in addition to rooms that house our five Specials classes (Art, Media, Music, P.E. and Science). Our student to instructional staff ratio is approximately 22:1.

Students receive a daily curbside greeting by school staff, as well as morning announcements produced by their peers. WCES gives students and staff information about school events, successes, celebrations, and interesting facts.

Challenger's school grade for the 2025/2026 school year is an "A". Available data informs us that most achievement gaps are apparent in English Language Arts (ELA). These gaps impact grades 3-5, both the General Education population and the Students With Disabilities (SWD) population.

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.

Mission Statement: Challenger Elementary will provide a positive learning environment, which recognizes the importance of individual needs, and encourages community involvement. Challenger is committed to educating all students/staff to reach their highest potential.

Vision Statement: The vision of Challenge Elementary is aligned with the District's vision. We are dedicated to educating today's students and staff to succeed in tomorrow's world.

Challenger Elementary School is dedicated to finding/providing tailored resources to meet the needs of our diverse student population. Our belief is that college and career readiness begin at the elementary school level where Life Skills and Wellness partner with a strong academic foundation to prepare our students for success.

We meet students where they are and strive to bring those who struggle, to grade level proficiency. Our gifted and high-achieving students are also met with appropriate instruction, including enrichment. Our Collaborative Problem-Solving Team works with students in narrowing the achievement gaps through progress monitoring, implementing interventions and working with families to support our scholars. Challenger has a part-time Social Worker, Psychologist, and ESE Counselor, two Speech Pathologists, and three Special Education Facilitators who pull students for special services or utilize a push-in model as well. Various private therapists, and behavior technicians also provide services to students once approved by the district. Challenger is introducing a new cluster program for grades Kindergarten and First Grade.

Our programs also include positive behavior campaigns entailing character trait education, Life Skills and Wellness, Resiliency Education and practicing good citizenship throughout the school day. Students are expected to demonstrate good character in the classroom and beyond. They are met with weekly and monthly incentives aligned to programs such as *Kids of Character*, *Caught Being Good* and the School Wide Positive Behavior Plan.

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.

Teachers continue to hone their craft through the support of our Professional Learning Communities. In these sessions, among other activities, teachers progress monitor, share best practices, and mentor one another to build capacity throughout the school. Action research helps instructors to enhance their understanding of the classroom, thereby improving their skills as instructors. Teachers also practice differentiated instruction to meet the individual needs of all learners. The school community is committed to using up-to-date data (collected through formative and summative assessments) which inform next steps. We also strive to nurture the whole child through Life Skills and Wellness, and character trait education. Challenger also focused on raising our Science scores which increased from 51-66% proficiency.

Additional Information

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

Challenger has built relationships with various partners in the local community who help us to create a nurturing and safe environment for our students and families. Our teachers use innovative programs such as DonorsChoose and Amazon Wish List to gather resources needed for the classrooms. Home Depot has provided us with materials needed to beautify Challenger's exterior through our Green Thumb Garden Club in partnership with the Tamarac Fire Department who dedicated manpower to create lush landscaping and gardens. The Community Christian Church, and the Fo Guang Shan Miami Temple have contributed their time, services, and monetary support to provide students in need with school supplies, laptops, meals, clothes, and during the holiday season those students receive holiday meals, toys and gifts. Wawa, Axa Equitable, Gyromania, and Menchies play a key role in supporting our staff during opening of schools and Teacher Appreciation. Challenger's PTA fundraising and event planning efforts continue. Their volunteer service helps to support both students and teachers through programs such as S.O.S. funding for students in need of assistance for field trip participation, and Teacher Appreciation Week.