



Executive Summary for Manatee Bay 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?

Manatee Bay Elementary (MBE), located in the western suburbs of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is part of Broward County Public Schools and serves a diverse, vibrant community. The school opened in 2002 to alleviate overcrowding caused by rapid residential development in the surrounding neighborhoods. Today, it remains one of the largest elementary schools in Broward County, with an enrollment of approximately **1,000 students** in grades K–5, including **Exceptional Student Education (ESE) IND programs** and **two Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK) classes**.

Over the past three years, the school has adapted to changing enrollment trends, increased technology integration, and expanded support for students learning English. Families are drawn to Manatee Bay's reputation for academic excellence and its safe, family-oriented environment.

Demographics:

- **Hispanic/Latino: 58%**
- **White: 22%**
- **Asian: 11%**
- **Black/African American: 7%**
- **Multiracial: 3%**
- **Native American or Pacific Islander: <1%**
- Students represent **24 countries** and speak **13 different languages**, with **34% identified as English Language Learners (ELL)**.

Community & Staff:

MBE serves a predominantly suburban, middle- to upper-income community, many of whom actively participate in school activities and decision-making through a strong PTA. Staff reflect the school's diversity and are highly qualified, with many holding advanced degrees and ESOL or gifted endorsements.

Unique Features & Challenges:

- Strong reputation as a **high-performing school**; families often choose MBE over private options.
- A growing **multilingual and multicultural student body** requires differentiated instruction and additional ELL support.
- Continued growth and new housing developments in the area place **pressure on enrollment and resources**.
- Emphasis on **technology integration, inclusive practices, and enrichment opportunities** to meet diverse student needs.

MBE's commitment to excellence, diversity, and innovation ensures every student receives a first-class, individualized education in a supportive community.

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.

Manatee Bay Elementary is committed to providing a rigorous, high-quality education for all students in a nurturing and inclusive environment. Our mission—created in collaboration with staff, families, and community members at the school's founding in 2002—remains the foundation of our work:

Mission: *At Manatee Bay Elementary, we create a safe and happy place where everyone loves to learn and grow. We are dedicated to helping each student do their best and feel great about themselves, with strong support from our families and community. We inspire a love of learning that lasts a lifetime.*

Our vision is to ensure every child reaches their full potential by fostering a love of learning, celebrating diversity, and preparing students to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Core Beliefs and Values:

- All students can achieve academic excellence with individualized support.
- A safe, inclusive, and respectful school environment is essential for learning.
- Collaboration among students, staff, families, and the community strengthens student outcomes.
- Data-driven decision-making and research-based instruction are central to success.

How We Live Our Purpose

Manatee Bay Elementary delivers innovative, student-centered programs designed to meet the needs of a diverse population:

- **Academic Programs:** General Education, Gifted, Dual Language, Supported, and IND Exceptional Student Education (ESE) programs.
- **Specials Rotation:** Music, STEAM, Media, Physical Education, and Science.
- **Extended Learning:** Academic tutorial camps, enrichment clubs, and district-level competition teams, including Debate and VEX Robotics.
- **Mentorship:** Partnerships with Cypress Bay High School's Latinos in Action (LIA) program provide mentorship and academic support.

To “make our large school feel small”, we prioritize personalized instruction, flexible grouping based on data, and strong connections between students and staff. Teacher collaboration through horizontal and vertical planning ensures a cohesive and rigorous curriculum, while Parent Universities and family engagement opportunities empower parents to support student learning.

Our focus on developing the whole child—academically, socially, and emotionally—reflects our belief that every student deserves a differentiated, first-class education in a caring and supportive 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.

Manatee Bay Elementary continues to excel as one of Broward County's highest-achieving public, non-magnet elementary schools. In **Spring 2025**, the school earned and maintained an “**A**” rating on the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), reflecting strong student performance and high academic expectations.

Notable Achievements (Past 3 Years):

- **Sustained Excellence:** Consistently recognized as an “A” school by the Florida Department of Education.
- **National Recognition:**
 - Named a **Blue Ribbon School finalist** for academic excellence.
 - Earned and maintained **5 Star School** status for exceptional community involvement.
 - Designated a **Special Olympics National Banner Unified Champion School**, one of only 14 schools nationwide to earn this honor.
- **Innovative Language Support:** Implemented **Language Enrichment Camps** for emerging bilingual students, providing a structured curriculum to accelerate language acquisition.

- **Targeted Intervention Programs:**
 - Before-school i-Ready sessions for struggling students.
 - Dedicated **ELL pull-out instruction** for K–5 students.
- **Inclusive Programming:** Expanded enrichment opportunities, mentorship programs, and after-school offerings to support the whole child.

Current Areas of Improvement:

- Narrowing the **achievement gap** between English Language Learners (ELLs) and the general student population.
- Strengthening **Tier 2 and Tier 3 interventions** to ensure students performing below grade level receive targeted, individualized support.
- Increasing opportunities for **student engagement in STEM and advanced coursework** to challenge high-achieving students.

Goals for the Next Three Years:

1. **Accelerate ELL Progress:** Expand dual-language and multilingual programming, increase access to enrichment for ELL students, and provide targeted family engagement opportunities.
2. **Instructional Innovation:** Integrate more personalized learning and technology-based interventions to differentiate instruction.
3. **Community Partnerships:** Deepen partnerships with local organizations and Cypress Bay High School to enhance mentorship, enrichment, and volunteer opportunities.
4. **Wellness and Social-Emotional Learning:** Strengthen SEL supports to ensure all students are thriving academically, emotionally, and socially.

Additional Information

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

Manatee Bay Elementary remains committed to fostering **21st-century learning** and delivering **innovative, inclusive programs** that prepare students for future success. One of our signature offerings is the **Spanish Dual Language Program** for grades K–5, which allows students to progress through elementary school together while becoming fluent in **reading, writing, and speaking** in both English and Spanish. This program supports biliteracy and ensures a smooth transition into middle school with advanced language skills.

We place a strong emphasis on **early literacy** as the foundation for lifelong achievement. Our **Voluntary Pre-Kindergarten (VPK)** program is closely aligned with our kindergarten curriculum to ensure a seamless learning experience for our youngest students. In these classrooms, instruction is **developmentally appropriate, literacy-rich, and differentiated** to meet every child’s unique needs.

Manatee Bay takes pride in being a **community-centered school** where staff, families, and community partners collaborate to maintain high expectations for all students. Our strong culture of academic excellence, social-emotional support, and innovation reflects our mission to create a nurturing environment where children build **self-esteem, respect, and a love of learning**.