



Executive Summary for Gulfstream Early Learning Center (AKA: Gulfstream Early Childhood Center of Excellence)

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?

Located at 120 SW 4th Avenue in Hallandale Beach, Florida, Gulfstream Early Learning Center (GELC) was established when the former Gulfstream Middle School combined with Hallandale Elementary School to become Gulfstream Academy of Hallandale Beach K-8 approximately one mile away in July of 2016. At Gulfstream Early Learning Center, Adult ESOL and GED classes began in the spring of 2017. PreK classes began in August of 2018 with four PreK classes.

Hallandale Beach has the feel of a small town. Generations of families continue to live in the area and attend the public school system. As a result, many of the children attending Gulfstream ELC had parents who attended Hallandale Elementary or Gulfstream Middle School, which were previously on the same site.

GELC is the brainchild of Dr. Lori Canning, Executive Director of Family & Community Engagement. GELC was developed to fulfil the community's wish for an Early Learning Center since the city already had a K-8 school, high school, and senior center.

In addition to the early childhood programs and adult learning programs on campus, GELC is unique in that multiple partners rent space on campus and provide a variety of services to the families of any and all GELC students. Services include Family Strengthening Lab (laundry, computers, weekly workshops); Jay's Closet (free diapers, gently used clothing, home goods); Mobile School Pantry (monthly distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables to over 290 families); Early Learning Coalition of Broward (on site support for School Readiness or VPK applications); Broward College (early learning training courses on campus each semester); Hispanic Unity of Florida (Family Strengthening, Comprano Rico y Sano, and other important family services); Memorial Healthcare System (after care, summer care for special needs prek students, referrals for family services and case management); United Way of Broward County (financial coaching, housing stability, job readiness referrals); and much more.

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.

School VISION:

Our vision is that Gulfstream Early Learning Center is a Model School of High-Quality Early Childhood Education, including family strengthening, community partnerships, and educator professional development impacting the entire Broward County and South Florida Community.

School MISSION:

Gulfstream Early Learning Center will provide the highest quality early care and education while engaging in intergenerational, community-focused, family strengthening services and offering professional development opportunities for early childhood educators throughout Broward County and South Florida.

BCPS VISION:

Educating today's students to succeed in tomorrow's world.

BCPS MISSION:

Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) is committed to educating all students to reach their highest potential.

BCPS CORE VALUES:

All students will learn when their individual needs are met.

Learning is a lifelong process.

Every student has a right to a high-quality educational option.

Engaged families combined with highly effective teachers and school leaders are the core components of a successful school.

Positive character education is essential to whole child development.

The diversity of our community is valuable and must be embraced.

Students must be prepared as innovative thinkers and responsible citizens to compete in a global economy.

High-quality customer service is a critical component of high-quality education.

Positive stakeholder involvement enhances student achievement.

Everyone must be held to the highest ethical standards to achieve excellence.

Everyone must contribute to and be held accountable for student achievement.

An equitable education provides all necessary resources to meet student needs.

All District services must clearly tie to student achievement.

Respect and dignity are critical, both in and out of the classroom.

Public education is the foundation of a democratic society.

Gulfstream ELC has grown and evolved from the original mission to be responsive to the needs of the community.

Originally, in 2018 the PreK began with one 3 year old Head Start class, one 4 year old Head Start class, and two VPK classes which are offered in conjunction with Gulfstream Academy to provide a full free day program. The next school year, in 2019, we added Early Head Start with one Infant and one Toddler Class. The following school year, in 2020, even during the pandemic, we continued to grow and added additional 3 and 4 year old Head Start classes.

Later that same year, one of our children was identified to have special needs, but didn't have the class needed to serve him. In 2021, we opened one Specialized and one Intensive PreK ESE class so that the student could return and attend our school. Since that time, we have continued to grow. This school year, we have Early Head Start (Infants & Toddlers); 3 Yr Old Head Start (2 classes); 4 Yr Old Head Start (2 classes); VPK (2 classes); PreK ESE Specialized (2 classes); PreK ESE Intensive (3 classes); as well as our new Special Area PreK Art for a total of 14 classes.

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.

Prior to the start of the 2019-2020 school year, Gulfstream Early Learning Center became a licensed Child Care Facility in Broward County, allowing the site to operate Early Head Start for infants and toddlers. During the 2022-2023 school year, Gulfstream Early Learning Center completed the Cognia accreditation process to receive our Certificate of Early Learning Accreditation (valid through 6/30/2028). And, as a result of Accreditation, in the fall of 2023 GELC was recognized as a Gold Seal Quality Care Program by the Florida Department of Education Division of Early Learning.

During the 2022-2023 school year, we began our School Advisory Council and School Advisory Forum and developed our first school improvement plan. We continue to meet monthly to involve parents in the School Improvement and Advisory process.

During the 2025-2026 budget cycle, Broward County Public Schools recognized the Early Learning Center Model in the budget process. GELC is one of three early learning centers which also include Wingate Oaks and Broward Estates Early Learning & Resource Center. Our three sites share a guidance counselor, and as a result of the common budget, we were able to expand to have a Classroom Monitor and Specials teacher this school year.

Additional Information

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

Gulfstream Early Learning Center operates 5 days per week (Monday-Friday, 7am to 5pm) and 4 nights per week (Monday-Thursday, 5pm-9pm). GELC operates 12 months out of the year offering adult classes, and summer PreK programs throughout the summer. Community Resources are available to families throughout the entire year.