



## **Executive Summary**

**Natural Bridge Elementary School**

**Miami-Dade County Public Schools**

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North Miami, FL 33181-1321

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## **Introduction**

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning. <br><br> The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

## **Description of the School**

**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?**

Natural Bridge Elementary School, located at 1650 NE 141 Street in North Miami, Florida, 33181, is dedicated to the goal of facilitating the highest quality education possible for every student in our school. We service a multicultural community consisting of 59 percent Black, 32 percent White, 27 percent Hispanic, 2 percent Asian, 0.5 percent American Indian, and 2 percent Multiracial. Our school's student population consists of 650 students in grades Pre-K to 5, with 85 percent Black Non-Hispanic, 1 percent White Non-Hispanic, 13 percent Hispanic, and 1 percent Asian/Indian/ Multiracial. Eighteen percent of our population includes students with disabilities, and 28 percent are students who are learning English as a second language. The number of students enrolled at Natural Bridge Elementary has increased approximately thirty students a year for the past three years. Our school staff demographics consists of 53 percent Black, 28 percent White, 18 percent Hispanic, and 1 percent Other. At Natural Bridge Elementary, we believe that all students will meet their academic potential when given effective academic opportunities delivered in a stimulating and challenging learning environment. Therefore, we utilize numerous programs, such as the YMCA program that provides excellent after school care. Our students also engage in after school clubs and activities, such as the Garden Club, Art Club, and Chess Club. A small group of our students also participate in the prestigious Miami Choral Academy, a choral program sponsored by Seraphic Fire. Moreover, we are in the beginning stages of implementing the Extended Foreign Language (EFL) program beginning at the kindergarten level with the end result of a fully implemented school wide bilingual program. Additionally, four of our teachers are National Board Certified. The strategies we use address the needs of our multicultural/multi-ethnic students as we help them to reach their academic potential.

More than 50 percent of our students are from a home where English is a second language. Consequently, parents are not familiar with the American educational system and many are not proficient in English. This presents a barrier toward parental involvement and parent participation in the educational process. We offer parent meetings and workshops on an ongoing basis to address this challenge.

## **School's 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.**

In its mission, Natural Bridge Elementary School is committed to providing reflective instructional practices, illustrated through cross curricular opportunities and research based effective teaching strategies that empower all stakeholders. Utilizing all current and evolving media, coaching, mentoring, and affective approaches, we ensure all learners will become literate, proactive and responsible members of the community. We strive to provide a caring and enriching environment in which every student will realize his/her intellectual, social, emotional, and physical potential.

The vision of Natural Bridge Elementary School community is for all stakeholders to become active participants in lifelong learning at the highest standards of rigor, utilizing proactive, analytical, and collaborative approaches to problem solving, while nurturing the individual needs and differences of all school community members.

Natural Bridge Elementary holds the following beliefs as the foundation for our educational program:

- We believe that every child has the potential to learn;
- We believe that success is achieved through the collaboration of parents, students, staff, and community working together towards a common goal; and
- We believe that we have a responsibility to our students and the surrounding community to help our students achieve their maximum potential. Through implementation of the Common Core State Standards we seek to make all our students lifelong learners and college, or career ready.

## **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.**

Natural Bridge Elementary's Science achievement scores are among the highest in the district as evidenced on the 2013 FCAT with 61% of our students achieving mastery. Additionally, our English Language Learner (ELL) population has been a role model for the district in the usage of the Imagine Learning Program, a technology based tutoring used to assist students with proficiency in the English Language.

Natural Bridge Elementary is the recipient of several enrichment programs that promote our students' growth academically, socially, environmentally, and physically. Some of these programs include the Garden Grant, Common Threads Cooking Class, Fruits and Vegetables Grant, Miami Choral Academy, and Academic Excellence.

Furthermore, our principal Frank V. MacBride, Jr. was a North Region Principal of the Year finalist for the 2014-2015 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.**

Natural Bridge Elementary is located in a stable multi-ethnic community. Our attendance rates are consistently among the highest in the county. We have a safe and nurturing environment sustained by veteran teachers with a very low rate of staff turnover. The vision of Natural Bridge Elementary is for our students to attain the skills necessary to be problem solvers and lifelong learners. We want to create a learning climate where students, teachers, parents, community members and administrators feel confident and are eager to strive for an optimal learning environment. We want our students to have educational experiences designed to maximize their academic achievement so that they will be prepared to compete in our ever-changing society.