



Community Report on Avocado Elementary School

A Traditional Parent's Perspective on School Policies and Environment

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Summary and Overall Rating

Avocado Elementary School is a Title I public school in Homestead, Florida. It serves students from PreK through grade 3 and delivers a stable, supportive and academically improving environment. However, like other area schools, it is part of Miami-Dade County Public Schools, which enforces gender identity affirmation and LGBTQ-inclusive policies starting in early grades.

From a traditional or faith-based perspective, the school receives a **3.5 out of 10** rating for alignment with conservative family values. The campus culture is calm and routine, but district-level directives reflect progressive values that may not align with more conservative expectations.

School Information

Name: Avocado Elementary School

Address: 16969 SW 294th Street, Homestead, FL 33030

Grades: PreK to 3

District: Miami Dade County Public Schools

1. General Overview

The school enrolls approximately 636 students in PreK through third grade, served by about 50 full-time teachers—yielding a student-to-teacher ratio near **13 to 1**, which is stronger than the state average. The campus includes a main building, portable classrooms, a library, and outdoor play areas.

2. Academic Standing

Avocado Elementary performs above average for its grade levels. State proficiency rates are around **52 percent in math** and **57 percent in reading**, roughly at or above state averages. The school holds a B grade from review platforms, and it ranks among the top 50 percent of Florida elementary schools. It offers Gifted & Talented services, early childhood programs (VPK), and strong extracurriculars.

3. Student Demographics

The student population is diverse: roughly **79 percent Hispanic**, **16 percent Black**, and remaining White or other ethnicities. Over **74 percent** of students qualify for free or

reduced-price lunch. As an equity-focused, working-class school, it serves a high-need community.

4. Facilities and Programs

Facilities include standard classrooms, library spaces, and outdoor areas. The school offers preschool, special education, Gifted & Talented program, after-school care, and extracurriculars such as robotics, arts, music, and STEM activities. It also has structured data-driven instruction planning and attendance intervention programs.

5. Values and Cultural Environment

5.1 District Policies on Gender Identity and LGBTQ Inclusion

Miami-Dade County Public Schools includes gender identity and sexual orientation in its anti-discrimination policies. Staff are expected to respect students' chosen names and pronouns. The district's SAFE Network promotes LGBTQ-affirming spaces even in early grades—a practice that may conflict with some traditional family beliefs regarding age-appropriate instruction and parental control.

5.2 School-Level Practice

Avocado Elementary has no public controversies around LGBTQ topics. The school follows district mandates by providing staff training and implementing inclusive practices. While formal instruction on gender or sexuality is unlikely at the early grades, parents concerned about classroom exposure are encouraged to speak with school staff for clarity.

6. School Board and Political Context

In 2022, Miami-Dade School Board voted against recognizing LGBTQ History Month and prohibiting LGBTQ content in high school lessons. Elementary schools, including Avocado, remain under district policies that support early inclusion. This reflects a tension between statewide conservative legislation and locally enforced progressive practices.

7. Parent Concerns

Conservative or religious families may have worries such as:

- Introduction of gender identity topics or affirming language to young students
- School privacy policies allowing identity-related choices without parental notification
- Potential focus shifting from core academics to social identity or ideological content

Although Avocado Elementary does not appear to promote activism, district-aligned inclusion efforts may still influence the school's everyday environment.

8. Conclusion

Avocado Elementary School offers a stable, academically supportive and program-rich environment for young learners. Its student-teacher ratio and test performance exceed average expectations, and its diverse student body benefits from robust resources.

However, families holding traditional values should recognize that the school is part of a district that promotes early LGBTQ inclusion and gender identity affirmation. While the campus does not display overt activism, the policy framework reflects progressive values that may not align with all family beliefs.

Conservatism Alignment Rating: 3.5 out of 10

1. Policy Environment: 2 out of 10

District enforces progressive policies affirming gender identity and LGBTQ inclusion even in early grades.

2. School-Level Practice: 5 out of 10

No public activism or controversy; the school follows district directives fully.

3. Classroom Exposure: 4 out of 10

No formal instruction in early grades, but identity-affirming language or symbols may appear informally.

4. Community and Cultural Tone: 6 out of 10

The school serves a modest, working-class community. The atmosphere is respectful and calm, though influenced by district policy.

Final Summary for Parents

Avocado Elementary delivers a supportive and effective learning environment for young students. However, it is also situated within a school system that prioritizes early identity affirmation. Traditional-values families may wish to discuss school policies with leadership, monitor classroom practices, and explore other educational options if alignment with more conservative principles is desired.