



## **Community Report on Bel-Aire Elementary School**

***A Traditional Parent's Perspective on School Policies and Environment***

**Schoolreveal.com**

## Community Report on Barbara Hawkins Elementary School

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#### Summary and Overall Rating

Barbara Hawkins Elementary is a Title I public school in Miami Gardens, Florida, serving PreK through grade 5. It offers a caring, structured learning environment with a strong emphasis on student achievement and inclusivity. However, as part of the Miami-Dade County Public Schools district, it follows policies that promote gender identity affirmation and LGBTQ inclusion from the early grades.

From a traditional or faith-based perspective, the school receives a **3.5 out of 10** rating for alignment with conservative educational values. The school delivers a respectful and academically focused atmosphere, but district-wide mandates strongly influence its policy framework.

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#### School Information

**Name:** Barbara Hawkins Elementary School

**Address:** 19010 NW 37th Avenue, Miami Gardens, FL 33056

**Grades:** PreK to 5

**District:** Miami-Dade County Public Schools

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#### 1. General Overview

The school serves approximately 214 students with a student-to-teacher ratio of around 13 to 1. It provides a close-knit, community-oriented environment and includes dedicated programs for preschool and gifted students.

#### 2. Academic Standing

Barbara Hawkins Elementary typically earns average academic ratings, including a 6 out of 10 on GreatSchools and a C+ rating on Niche. Test scores show approximately 37 percent math proficiency and 32 percent reading proficiency. The school offers a Gifted & Talented program and maintains a strong focus on student growth and support.

#### 3. Student Demographics

The student body is nearly 100 percent minority, with a large majority qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch. This reflects a working-class community with significant economic need, supported by Title I resources.

#### **4. Facilities and Programs**

The school has a main building, portable classrooms, and a media center. It offers preschool, special education, after-school care, and Gifted & Talented services, emphasizing individualized support and academic enrichment.

#### **5. Values and Cultural Environment**

##### **5.1 District Policies on Gender Identity and LGBTQ Inclusion**

Miami-Dade District policies include strong anti-discrimination and anti-bullying measures that explicitly protect sexual orientation and gender identity. Staff are expected to use students' preferred names and pronouns. The district runs the SAFE Network to ensure affirming environments for LGBTQ students, even at the elementary level. These policies, while protective, may conflict with traditional parental expectations regarding age-appropriate content and family authority.

##### **5.2 School-Level Practice**

Barbara Hawkins does not show any public controversies related to LGBTQ issues. The school complies with policies on identity inclusion and staff training. Parents who prefer to limit early exposure to gender identity topics may wish to visit the school or speak with administrators about how these policies are implemented.

#### **6. School Board and Political Climate**

In 2022, the school board voted against recognizing LGBTQ History Month in high school content. Elementary schools were unaffected, but district-wide policies promoting inclusion remained in force. This continues the trend of local progressive policies coexisting with broader state-level restrictions.

#### **7. Parent Concerns**

Families who hold traditional values may raise the following issues:

- Early exposure to gender identity concepts in young children
- School policies that may allow identity disclosures without informing parents
- A perceived emphasis on social identity over academic priorities

Though Barbara Hawkins does not exhibit visible activism, the policy framework it follows may conflict with some families' values.

#### **8. Conclusion**

Barbara Hawkins Elementary provides a safe, supportive, and academically sound environment for young students in a deeply caring community. The school's small size and focus on student achievement contribute to a nurturing learning atmosphere.

However, families who prefer a traditional approach or wish to limit early discussion of gender or LGBTQ topics should be aware that the school operates under district mandates affirming identity inclusion. Parents may wish to meet with school leadership to understand how these policies are applied and to ensure alignment with their own family values.

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**Overall Rating: 3.5 out of 10****Rating Breakdown**

- **Policy Environment: 2 out of 10**  
District enforces progressive identity and inclusion mandates from PreK onward.
- **School-Level Practice: 5 out of 10**  
No activism evident; the school complies fully with district policies.
- **Classroom Exposure: 4 out of 10**  
Formal LGBTQ instruction is unlikely, but identity-inclusive elements may be present.
- **Community and Cultural Tone: 6 out of 10**  
The school environment is respectful and straightforward, with district policies setting the context.

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**Final Summary for Parents**

Barbara Hawkins Elementary offers a strong academic environment with a caring community. However, it is subject to district-level policies that affirm early gender identity and LGBTQ inclusion. Families seeking to ensure that educational values match their own should engage with school staff and consider other schooling options if necessary.