



Community Report on Bel-Aire Elementary School

A Traditional Parent's Perspective on School Policies and Environment

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Summary and Overall Rating

Bel-Aire Elementary School is a Title I public school in Cutler Bay, Florida, serving students from PreK through grade 5. It offers a stable academic environment with strong extracurricular and gift-and-talent programs. However, as part of Miami Dade County Public Schools, it follows policies affirming gender identity and promoting LGBTQ inclusivity from early grades.

From a traditional or faith-based family perspective, the school is rated **3.5 out of 10** for alignment with conservative values. The school culture is calm and community oriented, but district policies significantly influence the educational environment.

Keep reading for a detailed breakdown of how this rating was determined.

School Information

Name: Bel-Aire Elementary School

Address: 10205 SW 194th Street, Cutler Bay, FL 33157

Grades: PreK to 5

District: Miami Dade County Public Schools

1. General Overview

Bel-Aire serves around 330 students with approximately 20 full-time teachers, maintaining a student-to-teacher ratio of about 16 to 1. The campus is suburban and includes standard classroom buildings, a library, and outdoor play areas. Before- and after-school care is available through community and YMCA programs.

2. Academic Standing

Bel-Aire earns a B grade and a 7 out of 10 overall rating from education review platforms. State test scores show approximately 45 to 49 percent proficiency in math and about 35 to 39 percent proficiency in reading and science. This places the school in the middle range statewide, offering solid but not exceptional academic results. It provides a Gifted and Talented program, Cambridge curriculum components, and extracurricular clubs.

3. Student Demographics

The student body is diverse with approximately 69 percent Hispanic, 25 percent Black, and the remainder White, Asian, or multiracial. Over 70 percent of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch, reflecting a working-class community that benefits from Title I support.

4. Facilities and Programs

The school includes a library, portable classrooms, media center, and outdoor recreational space. Academic and enrichment offerings include Gifted and Talented programming, after-school care, sports and arts clubs, and STEM activities. Instructional interventions are data informed and tailored to individual student needs.

5. Values and Cultural Environment

District Policies on Gender Identity and LGBTQ Inclusion

Miami Dade County Public Schools includes gender identity and sexual orientation in its anti-discrimination policy. Staff are expected to honor students' chosen names and pronouns. The district also operates SAFE Network training to create LGBTQ-affirming environments at all schools, including elementary campuses. These practices may conflict with traditional parent expectations regarding age appropriate content and parental authority.

School-Level Practice

Bel-Aire does not have any public controversies related to LGBTQ matters. While the school itself does not push an ideological agenda, it complies fully with district mandates, including inclusive training for staff. Parents concerned about the effect of these policies at the classroom level may want to meet with leadership for clarity on how they are applied.

6. School Board and Political Climate

In 2022, the Miami Dade School Board voted against recognizing LGBTQ History Month and against integrating LGBTQ civil rights content into high school curriculum. However, inclusion policies remain active in elementary schools. This highlights ongoing tension between state level discussions and local district enforcement. The school board's stance may bring some reassurance, but daily practice continues under inclusive directives.

7. Parent Concerns

Families with traditional values may raise concerns including

- Introduction of gender identity concepts at an early developmental stage
- Policies that allow identity expression without notification to parents
- A shift in classroom emphasis from core academic learning to social identity themes

Although Bel-Aire is not an environment of activism, its compliance with district inclusion policies may not align with some family values.

8. Conclusion

Bel-Aire Elementary provides a nurturing, academically solid, and community-centered education. The school offers respectable test scores and a variety of programs for student development. However, families who prioritize a traditional or conservative educational approach should be aware of the district-wide policies affirming early LGBTQ inclusion. While the school is calm and well run, its policy environment reflects broader progressive mandates.

Parents with strong traditional convictions are encouraged to discuss educational policies with school leadership, seek transparency in classroom practices, and explore alternative schooling options if desired.

Overall Rating: 3.5 out of 10

Rating Breakdown

Policy Environment (2 out of 10)

District enforces inclusive policies and affirmation of gender identity at all grade levels

School-Level Practice (5 out of 10)

No signs of activism; school follows district mandates completely

Classroom Exposure (4 out of 10)

No formal LGBTQ curriculum in early grades, but inclusive materials or behaviors may appear informally

Community and Cultural Tone (6 out of 10)

Supportive suburban community environment; district policies shape school culture

Final Summary for Parents

Bel-Aire Elementary offers a steady academic environment and strong community atmosphere. However, it's subject to district policies that promote early identity inclusion. Traditional families may find the school acceptable yet may prefer alternatives better aligned with their values.