



Community Report on Bent Tree Elementary School

A Traditional Parent's Perspective on School Policies and Environment

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Summary and Overall Rating

Bent Tree Elementary School is a Title I public school in Kendale Lakes, Miami, serving students from PreK through grade 5. The school boasts exceptional academic performance with consistent “A” grades and a strong Gifted and Talented program. Its suburban setting provides a calm, structured learning environment. However, the school is part of Miami Dade County Public Schools, which enforces gender identity affirmation and LGBTQ inclusive policies starting in the earliest 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 campus culture remains high-achieving and supportive, yet district-wide mandates significantly shape the school’s approach to identity and inclusion.

Read on for the detailed rating breakdown and information underlying this assessment.

School Information

Name

Bent Tree Elementary School

Address

4861 SW 140th Avenue, Miami, FL 33175

Grades

PreK to 5

District

Miami Dade County Public Schools

1. General Overview

Bent Tree serves approximately 441 students with 38 full-time teachers, resulting in a student-to-teacher ratio of around 11.6 to 1. The student population is approximately 96 percent Hispanic, with 52 percent qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch. Eight self-contained Autism Spectrum Disorder units are included. The school has maintained an “A” rating for 16 years.

2. Academic Standing

The school consistently earns an “A” grade and is rated 9 out of 10 by educational review platforms. State testing reveals high proficiency: 87 percent in math and 72 percent in reading. The school ranks among the top in Florida elementary schools and is recognized for its strong academic performance, especially in STEM.

3. Student Demographics

The student body is predominantly Hispanic at 96 percent, with small representation from White, Black, and Asian students. Over half of students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch. Forty-five percent are English language learners and 18 percent are students with disabilities.

4. Facilities and Programs

The campus features standard classrooms, portable learning spaces, a library, and playgrounds. Programs include Gifted and Talented education, eight ASD units, preschool offerings, after-care services, and extracurriculars (Robotics, STEM, Arts, Music). The school emphasizes data-driven instruction and provides strong support services.

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 and anti-bullying policies. Staff are expected to use chosen names and pronouns regardless of grade level. The district operates the SAFE Network to ensure LGBTQ affirming environments across all schools. While protective, parents with traditional values may find such policies intrusive or age-inappropriate.

School-Level Practice

Bent Tree Elementary has no known controversy regarding LGBTQ issues. School administrators and staff fully comply with district policies on inclusion and training. Parents seeking clarity on how identity policies are implemented may wish to speak directly with school leadership.

6. School Board and Political Climate

In 2022, the Miami Dade School Board voted against recognizing LGBTQ History Month in high schools and opposed integrating LGBTQ civil rights content in high school lessons. Elementary schools were unaffected. The district’s inclusive policies remain in force, reflecting a divide between conservative state-level legislation and local progressive practices.

7. Parent Concerns

Families with traditional values may express concerns such as:

- Introduction of gender identity and LGBTQ themes to young children
- Privacy policies permitting identity preferences without parent notification
- A shift from academic focus to social identity discourse

Though Bent Tree is not a center of activism, the influence of district-mandated inclusion policies may not align with traditional family values.

8. Conclusion

Bent Tree Elementary provides top-tier academic outcomes, dedicated programs, and a supportive learning environment. Its small class sizes and high academic standards support student success. However, families with conservative or faith-based values should be aware that the school operates under district guidelines affirming early LGBTQ inclusion.

Parents are encouraged to discuss policy implementation with school leadership and consider whether the school aligns with their family values.

Overall Rating 3.5 out of 10

Rating Breakdown

Policy Environment 2 out of 10

District enforces progressive inclusion and identity policies from the earliest grades

School-Level Practice 5 out of 10

School shows no activism, but fully aligns with district mandates

Classroom Exposure 4 out of 10

No formal LGBTQ curriculum at early grades, but identity-affirming content may appear informally

Community and Cultural Tone 6 out of 10

Suburban, respectful community setting with district influence guiding school culture

Final Summary for Parents

Bent Tree Elementary offers a high-performing and structured learning environment. However, it operates within a district framework that promotes early LGBTQ inclusion. Traditional families should assess whether this environment meets their expectations. Engage with school leadership, review policy details, and consider alternative schools if needed.