



Community Report on Bunche Park Elementary School
A Traditional Parent's Perspective on School Policies and Environment

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Summary and Overall Rating

Bunche Park Elementary School is a Title I public school located in Miami Gardens, Florida, serving students from PreK through fifth grade. The school holds an A rating for academics and promotes a supportive, structured learning environment. However, it is part of the Miami Dade County Public Schools system, which enforces progressive policies on gender identity and LGBTQ inclusion from the earliest grades. A notable safety incident occurred in 2023 involving THC-laced candy consumed by a student, highlighting concerns around supervision.

From a traditional or faith-based viewpoint, Bunche Park Elementary receives a **3.5 out of 10** for alignment with conservative educational values. The academic climate is commendable, but district-level mandates and safety incidents may give pause to families prioritizing more traditional environments.

Continue reading for a full breakdown of the score and school profile.

1. General Overview

Bunche Park Elementary is a public elementary school serving approximately 500 to 600 students. It is part of the Miami Dade County Public Schools district and holds an A rating in academic performance. The school provides services for early childhood education and standard elementary instruction, and the campus includes a media center and outdoor learning spaces.

2. Academic Standing

Bunche Park has consistently maintained high academic performance within the district, earning an A rating. The school emphasizes literacy, mathematics, and parental involvement and offers a well-supported academic environment. While it excels locally, it is not among the most elite schools in the state based on statewide metrics.

3. Student Demographics

The student body reflects the community's diversity and economic challenges. As a Title I school, a large percentage of students come from low-income households. The school provides support services, including special education, academic intervention, and family outreach programs.

4. Facilities and Programs

The campus includes standard classroom spaces, an early childhood education center, portable buildings, and outdoor areas for recreation and learning. Programs include after-school services, academic enrichment, and media resources. The school maintains a structured and nurturing environment focused on academic achievement and behavioral development.

5. Values and Cultural Environment

District Policies on Gender Identity and LGBTQ Inclusion

The Miami Dade school district includes gender identity and sexual orientation as protected categories in its anti-discrimination and anti-bullying policies. All teachers and staff are expected to respect students' preferred names and pronouns regardless of age or parental consent. The district runs a program called the SAFE Network, which promotes LGBTQ-affirming practices in every public school, including elementary campuses. From a traditional viewpoint, these policies raise concerns about age-appropriateness and parental rights.

School-Level Practice

There is no public evidence of LGBTQ activism or controversy specific to Bunche Park Elementary. However, since the school follows district mandates, it is expected that staff participate in LGBTQ-inclusivity training and affirm identity preferences. Parents concerned about early exposure to such topics should speak directly with the administration for clarity on implementation at the classroom level.

6. Recent Negative Incidents or Controversies

In late November 2023, a serious incident occurred when a 9-year-old student unknowingly consumed THC-infused candy on campus. The candy was mistaken for regular sour candy and shared among classmates, causing illness that required hospitalization. The school district conducted a full investigation and took steps to reinforce student safety protocols.

7. School Board and Political Context

In 2022, the Miami Dade County School Board voted against formally recognizing LGBTQ History Month and against incorporating LGBTQ civil rights topics into high school curriculum. However, elementary schools like Bunche Park continue to follow broader district inclusion policies. The result is a school system that outwardly appears politically divided, yet remains firmly committed to gender identity and inclusion efforts at every level.

8. Parent Concerns

Parents with traditional or religious values may raise several concerns:

- The early introduction of gender identity and pronoun preferences
- Policies allowing students to assert identities without notifying parents

- The shift from academics to ideological topics
- Supervision lapses that led to a serious safety incident

While the school is not actively promoting these issues beyond what is mandated, its compliance with district policies makes it part of a broader ideological approach.

9. Conclusion

Bunche Park Elementary offers a high-performing academic setting with a calm school culture. However, it is embedded in a school district with firm commitments to LGBTQ inclusion policies that may not align with the values of traditional families. The recent on-campus incident involving THC-laced candy further raises concerns about safety and oversight.

Parents should communicate with school leaders, review policies, and consider how well the school aligns with their family's educational priorities and beliefs.

Overall Rating: 3.5 out of 10

Rating Breakdown

Policy Environment: 2 out of 10

District policies mandate LGBTQ inclusion from PreK onward, including affirmation of identity without guaranteed parental notification.

School-Level Practice: 5 out of 10

Bunche Park shows no activism or controversy at the local level but follows all district guidelines.

Classroom Exposure: 4 out of 10

While there is no formal LGBTQ curriculum in elementary grades, students may encounter affirming language or materials through staff practices or school programs.

Community and Cultural Tone: 6 out of 10

The school serves a working-class and culturally diverse community that may lean traditional. The culture appears calm, but policies still reflect district-wide ideology.

Final Summary for Parents

Bunche Park Elementary offers strong academics and a stable learning environment. However, it operates within a district that promotes progressive gender identity policies and experienced a major safety lapse in 2023. Families prioritizing traditional values may wish to evaluate these factors closely and consider alternatives that better reflect their values.