



Community Report on Charles R. Hadley Elementary School

A Traditional Parent's Perspective on School Policies and Environment

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Summary and Overall Rating

Charles R. Hadley Elementary School is a Title I public elementary school in Northwest Miami, serving PreK through grade 5. The school supports approximately 600 students with an average class size of 16 to 1. Academically, it consistently ranks in the top half of public elementary schools in Florida and offers programs like Gifted and Talented, STEM activities, and after-school enrichment.

Despite its academic strengths, the school adheres to Miami-Dade County Public Schools' policies mandating gender identity affirmation and LGBTQ visibility beginning in early grades. When viewed from a traditional or faith-based standpoint, the school rates **3.5 out of 10** in alignment with conservative educational values.

Recent safety and conduct issues have emerged that may be of concern to parents. Read on for a full breakdown of the school's profile and rating.

1. General Overview

Charles R. Hadley Elementary enrolls around 611 students and offers a variety of early childhood and elementary services. The school has a stable faculty and emphasizes structured instruction and community building. Extra supports such as reading coaches, academic tutors, and social-emotional staff help reinforce student success abilities.

2. Academic Standing

The school earns a stable rating in the middle of Florida rankings. Proficiency rates show about 56% of students meet standards in math and approximately 50% in reading. Gifted and Talented offerings, an after-school STEM club, robotics workshops, and arts projects contribute to a well-rounded student experience. Overall academic momentum is steady, though not outstanding.

3. Student Demographics

The school population reflects community diversity: approximately 97% Hispanic and 1% Black, with very small numbers of other ethnic groups. Over 54% of students receive free or reduced-price lunch, indicating a notable presence of economic need. ESOL and special education services are actively provided to eligible students.

4. Facilities and Programs

The campus includes standard classrooms, a library, a media center, outdoor learning spaces, and after-school facilities. Programs include breakfast assistance, community celebrations, and family involvement evenings. Enrichment activities include arts, sports, STEM, and a student safety patrol. Gifted instruction is delivered alongside special education supports.

5. Values and Cultural Environment

District Policies on Gender Identity and LGBTQ Inclusion

Miami–Dade County Public Schools classifies gender identity and sexual orientation as protected categories. Staff are trained to respect students’ chosen names and pronouns regardless of age or parental oversight, through a system-wide SAFE Network initiative. From a traditional perspective this may appear to introduce sensitive identity issues too early and potentially marginalize family authority.

School-Level Practice

Charles R. Hadley does not display any visible LGBTQ programming or activism at the school level. Teachers are not seen leading campaigns, and no school materials indicate emphasis on identity themes. Nevertheless, the school operates within the district framework and staff are required to implement district trainings and expected practices. Parents are advised to speak with administrators about how these policies are enacted day to day.

6. Recent Negative Incidents or Controversies

Two significant incidents have impacted school reputation:

- A long-serving fifth-grade teacher was arrested and charged with inappropriate conduct involving multiple students. This prompted an immediate removal from the classroom and a district-wide review of hiring practices, background screenings, and notification protocols.
- A six-year-old student suffered severe injury during unsupervised recess activities, resulting in serious facial injury. This led to parental complaints regarding inadequate supervision, poor emergency response, and demands for greater accountability from school leadership.

These events raise questions about student safety and the effectiveness of adult supervision. Current policies and practices should be reviewed carefully by prospective parents.

7. School Board and Political Context

In 2022, the Miami–Dade School Board voted against recognizing LGBTQ History Month in high schools and opposed introducing LGBTQ civil rights curriculum in upper grades. Elementary schools, however, continue to follow inclusive district-wide policies. This ongoing divide creates a climate of political tension, especially for families monitoring values alignment in education.

8. Parent Concerns

Traditional or faith-based families may identify the following areas of concern:

- Early introduction of LGBTQ pronoun and identity discussions without prior parent notification
- A shift in curriculum and teacher training toward social identity rather than academics
- The handling of serious incidents involving staff misconduct and student injury
- Oversight practices that may have failed several years ago and the need for clear safety protocols

9. Conclusion

Charles R. Hadley Elementary provides a stable, academically solid environment with enrichment opportunities and community support. Yet the school also operates under district-imposed LGBTQ inclusion policies starting in early grades and has experienced serious safety and conduct incidents in recent years.

For families holding traditional or conservative values, it is essential to:

- (1) Meet with leadership to review how policy is put into practice
- (2) Examine current safety and supervision procedures
- (3) Confirm alignment with family expectations before enrolling

Overall Rating 3.5 out of 10

Rating Breakdown

Policy Environment 2 out of 10

The district enforces early and mandatory identity-affirming policies without offering alternatives

School-Level Practice 5 out of 10

The school shows no activism but follows all district policy requirements

Classroom Exposure 4 out of 10

No formal LGBTQ curriculum, though identity affirmation may be present in casual interactions

Community and Cultural Tone 6 out of 10

A calm and supportive environment shaped heavily by district values

Final Summary for Parents

Charles R. Hadley Elementary offers a reliable academic environment with community engagement and consistent enrichment programming. However, families should remain mindful of district-driven LGBTQ policies and recent safety concerns related to staff conduct and student

supervision. Verifying current practices with school leadership is essential to assess whether the school aligns with conservative or faith-based values.