



## **Community Report on Coral Reef Elementary School**

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

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### **Summary and Overall Rating**

Coral Reef Elementary is a public school in Palmetto Bay serving PreK through fifth grade. It delivers strong academic performance with around 81 percent proficiency in both math and reading. The school has received multiple accolades including State A ratings, advanced Gifted and Talented programs, STEAM recognition, and cultural awards highlighting community excellence.

However, district policies require staff to support gender identity and LGBTQ inclusion from early grades without parental opt-out. In addition, a serious incident involving a student fatality in recent years has raised concerns about campus safety and response readiness.

From a traditional or faith-based perspective, Coral Reef Elementary scores **3.5 out of 10**. The school excels academically, but progressive inclusion policies and safety sensitivities may concern parents seeking a more traditional environment.

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### **School Contact Information**

#### **School Name**

Coral Reef Elementary School

#### **Address**

7955 SW 152nd Street  
Palmetto Bay FL 33157

#### **Phone**

(305) 235-1464

#### **Grades**

PreK to 5

#### **District**

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

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### **1. Academic Standing & Programs**

Coral Reef consistently ranks among the top schools in Miami-Dade and Florida. Features include:

- 81 percent proficiency in math and reading
- A rated by the state and 9/10 on review platforms
- Gifted and Talented, advanced Spanish, and STEAM programs
- Enrichment in arts, music, robotics, and science fair winners
- Recognition as a No Place for Hate school and various awards for excellence

These elements offer a rich academic and cultural experience for students.

## **2. Student Community & Support Services**

The school serves around 740 students with a ratio of approximately 17 to 1. The demographic is 93 percent Hispanic, 33 percent on free or reduced lunch, with language and special education services available.

Services include:

- Multilingual support
- Special Education programs including autism and Varying Exceptionalities
- STEAM labs, library, creative media resources
- Mental health support and strong PTA involvement
- Safety resources such as counselor support and anti-bullying channels

## **3. Facilities & Enrichment**

Campus amenities include modern classrooms, media and STEAM spaces, and play areas. After-school and volunteer programs include:

- Clubs in garden, robotics, arts, dance, run club
- Family engagement events like reading nights and fun runs
- Parent workshops and community resource fairs
- School climate surveys and structured parent communication

These offerings foster both academic and community development.

## **4. Values & Cultural Environment**

Coral Reef follows district-wide policies that require staff to respect student pronouns and support LGBTQ inclusion. Training is mandatory for all personnel. Though few LGBTQ programs are visible, inclusive language and respect are built into daily practices.

## **5. Recent Incidents or Concerns**

- A young student tragically died in a backyard incident related to an obstacle course. The school responded with grief counselors, but parents raised concerns about overall student safety.
- Parent reports describe large volumes of online learning tools and daily homework that may exceed recommended expectations for younger students.
- Workload concerns are especially relevant for families with students needing tailored academic pacing.

The school has implemented emergency protocols and communication outreach to address these issues.

## **6. Political Context & Policies**

Despite the district opposing formal recognition of LGBTQ History Month in high schools, elementary campuses like Coral Reef remain under inclusive policy requirements. This policy environment reflects a progressive agenda at odds with conservative districts and parental expectations.

## **7. Parent Concerns & Actionable Steps**

Parents prioritizing traditional or faith-based values may want to consider:

- How identity and pronoun practices are applied in classrooms
- Ensuring communication protocols exist when safety incidents occur
- Balancing high academic expectations with typical development and learning styles

### **Helpful actions for parents include:**

- Meeting the principal and key staff at the start of the year
- Attending PTA meetings and school events to gauge culture
- Talking with teachers about workload, test prep tools, and homework support
- Reviewing safety plans and parent update practices for incidents
- Connecting with other parents to share insight and support

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## **Final Rating: 3.5 out of 10**

- **Policy Environment – 2 / 10**  
District requires inclusive identity policies from the earliest grades

- **School-Level Practice – 5 / 10**

School upholds district mandates, high-performing, but requires ongoing safety and communication reviews

- **Classroom Exposure – 4 / 10**

Inclusive language may be present though no formal LGBTQ curriculum for younger grades

- **Community and Cultural Tone – 6 / 10**

Academic excellence and engaged families, though some voice concerns over emotional safety and homework balance

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### **Final Summary for Parents**

Coral Reef Elementary is a top-tier school academically that offers excellent programs and rich extracurricular opportunities. Yet families should be aware of required district identity policies, elevated homework demands, and past safety incidents. Traditional or faith-based families may find it helpful to prepare by engaging with school leadership, attending community events, and establishing clear lines of communication regarding safety and curriculum.