



## **Community Report on Fulford Elementary School**

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

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Fulford Elementary is a public PreK through fifth grade school located in North Miami Beach. It enrolls approximately 460 to 500 students with an average class size of sixteen. Academic performance is below district norms with roughly 36 percent proficiency in math and 33 percent proficiency in reading. The school often receives a C or B grade in performance ratings. From a traditional or faith-based perspective the school receives a **rating of 3.5 out of 10**. While the school offers strong enrichment offerings and community events, its low test scores, classroom management issues, and district identity protocols may concern some families.

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#### **School Contact Information**

##### **School Name**

Fulford Elementary School

##### **Address**

16140 NE 18th Avenue  
North Miami Beach FL 33162

##### **Phone**

305 949 3425

##### **Grades**

PreK to Fifth Grade

##### **District**

Miami Dade County Public Schools

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#### **1. Academic Standing and Programs**

Fulford offers a Gifted and Talented program and STEAM activities. Academic proficiency rates are around 36 percent in math and 33 percent in reading. The school continues to implement reading recovery and small group instruction for students needing support. While academic performance is modest, continuing literacy and numeracy initiatives aim to boost student growth.

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

The school is designated Title I with nearly all students qualifying for free or reduced-price lunch. Student demographics are approximately 58 percent Black, 38 percent Hispanic, and

small percentages in other categories. About 31 percent are English learners and a small percentage qualify for gifted services or special education. Programs include ESL instruction, reading labs, counseling, and extended learning opportunities.

### **3. Facilities and Learning Environment**

The campus includes standard classrooms, media and technology spaces, and outdoor learning areas. After-school clubs include robotics, gardening, chess, orchestra, dance, and Youth Crime Watch safety patrol. Community celebrations, arts performances, and family engagement events are held throughout the year.

### **4. Values and Policy Environment**

District policy classifies gender identity and orientation as protected categories. Staff are required to respect students' preferred names and pronouns from early grades and participate in inclusive training. No formal LGBTQ curriculum is provided in early grades, yet inclusive language may appear in counseling sessions or announcements. Families may wish to clarify how identity-related policies are applied and whether their personal values are acknowledged in class routines.

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

Multiple parent comments have noted significant classroom disruption, including students slapping, using profanity, fighting during gym, and general misbehavior that administrators reportedly did not address. Parents described a lack of action from leadership when misconduct occurred. The school experienced a kitchen gas leak evacuation in 2019. There appear to be ongoing concerns about behavior management and discipline consistency.

### **6. Parent Engagement and Communication**

Families are invited to attend advisory council events, Parent Academy workshops, and volunteer in clubs and reading nights. Communication includes newsletters and school apps. Parents report that some outreach efforts fall short—such as assemblies held at difficult times and inconsistent follow-up after incidents. Leadership has made some adjustments but perceptions vary among families.

### **7. Parent Concerns and Recommended Actions**

Families with traditional or faith-based beliefs may wish to consider:

- How identity and pronoun policies are communicated in classrooms
- Protocols for managing student behavior and ensuring classroom safety
- Efforts to improve academic proficiency and reading outcomes
- Methods of communication and responsiveness to parent concerns

Recommended steps for parents:

Attend an early advisory meeting  
Meet with the principal and key staff to discuss discipline, policy and support plans  
Visit classrooms during enrichment activities to observe student tone  
Review the code of conduct and ask about how expectations are enforced

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

#### **Policy Environment 2**

District requires identity protocols early in grade levels without parental opt-out

#### **School Practice 4**

Offers enrichment and support but has behavior challenges and below-average academics

#### **Classroom Exposure 3**

Inclusive language may occur informally; no formal curriculum of identity or sexuality for early grades

#### **Community Culture 6**

Offers many programs and family events; some parents report issues with discipline and communication

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### **Final Summary for Parents**

Fulford Elementary serves a high-need community and offers a range of enrichment programs. Nonetheless its academic performance is modest and behavior management is a primary concern. The school adheres to district identity policies that may not align with all family values. Prospective parents are advised to attend school events, speak directly with administration, and observe school routines to determine if the environment aligns with family expectations.