



Community Report on Howard Drive Elementary School

A Traditional Parent's Perspective on School Policies and Environment

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Howard Drive Elementary serves students from PreK through 5th grade in the Homestead area. It enrolls approximately 430 children with a student-teacher ratio near 16 to 1. Academic proficiency is moderate with about 58 percent in math and 55 percent in reading. Chronic absenteeism is a concern, hovering around 27 percent. From a traditional or faith-based standpoint, the school receives a **rating of 3.5 out of 10**, considering its academic challenges and district identity policies that may not align with certain family values.

School Contact Information

School Name

Howard Drive Elementary School

Address

2501 SW 2nd Street
Homestead FL 33035

Phone

305 248 2195

Grades

PreK to 5

District

Miami-Dade County Public Schools

1. Student Demographics & Support Services

- Roughly 66 percent Hispanic, 28 percent African American, and a small percentage from other backgrounds
- Approximately 62 percent qualify for free or reduced-price lunch
Support includes ESL instruction, special education, reading and math tutoring, counseling services, academic coaching, and Title I programs focused on learning support and attendance recovery

2. Academic Standing & Programs

- Math proficiency is typically near 58 percent and reading around 55 percent

- The school offers Gifted and Talented classes, STEAM enrichment, reading nights, small group math instruction, and after-school tutoring
- Structured improvement planning and family academic nights support progress, though consistent attendance remains key

3. Facilities & Learning Environment

- The campus features traditional classrooms, a media center, STEM and art labs, and safe outdoor areas
- Arrival and dismissal routines are monitored by staff
- Community events include science fairs and literacy nights to encourage parent involvement

4. Values & Policy Environment

- District policy classifies gender identity and sexual orientation as protected
- Staff must respect student-chosen names and pronouns from PreK onward
- There is no formal LGBTQ curriculum at this level, but inclusive language may appear during counseling or school announcements
- Parents concerned about early exposure may wish to meet school officials to understand how policies are applied and whether family values are respected in instruction

5. Bathroom Policy & Privacy

- Restrooms remain gender-segregated with separate facilities for boys and girls
- Adult supervision is present in common areas and hallways
- No shared or multi-use restroom policies are in operation
- Parents may ask for a tour or confirmation if desired

6. Recent Incidents or Concerns

- There are no reported major safety or misconduct issues
- Chronic absenteeism remains a challenge affecting learning outcomes
- Some parents report minor delays in communication about classroom incidents
- Leadership has taken steps to strengthen attendance tracking and parent follow-up

7. Parent Engagement & Communication

- Families may engage through advisory council meetings, Parent Academy sessions, reading nights, and volunteer events
- Communication is typically delivered by newsletters, teacher messages, and school alerts
- Most parents report a supportive environment, though a few mention occasional response delays

8. Parent Concerns & Suggested Actions

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

- How identity and pronoun protocols are introduced in early grades
- Availability of academic support for struggling students
- Communication flow following behavior or attendance issues
- Ways to engage through advisory roles or volunteering

Suggested steps for parents:

- Visit the school early in the academic year to meet with administrators
- Volunteer or attend classroom events to observe culture
- Request the parent handbook to review policies on discipline and identity protocols
- Monitor attendance and academic progress and ask for support as soon as with needs

Final Rating: 3.5 out of 10

Policy Environment 2

District mandates identity and pronoun respect starting in PreK without parental opt-out

School Practice 5

Programs exist to support academics; steady progress but challenges persist

Classroom Exposure 4

Inclusive language may appear informally; no formal identity curriculum in early grades

Community Culture 6

Engaged families and supportive staff; communication consistency can vary

Final Summary for Parents

Howard Drive Elementary offers academic support, enrichment programs, and community involvement opportunities. Academic proficiency is modest and absenteeism remains a challenge. The school operates under district identity policies beginning in early grades and maintains traditional, gender-segregated restroom arrangements. Families seeking an

environment aligned with traditional academic and cultural values may benefit from visiting the school, meeting leadership, and assessing policy application before making decisions.