



Community Report on Lenora B. Smith Elementary School

A Traditional Parent's Perspective on School Policies and Environment

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Lenora B Smith Elementary School serves PreK through Fifth Grade in Miami's Liberty City area. The school enrolls approximately 328 students with a student teacher ratio of about fourteen to one. Academic performance is below state average, with roughly 42 percent proficiency in math and 27 percent in reading—placing the school in the bottom quarter statewide. Chronic absenteeism affects over 60 percent of students based on recent school improvement planning data. From a traditional or faith based viewpoint the school receives a **rating of 2.5 out of 10**, given its low academic outcomes, attendance concerns, and district identity policies that may not align with all families.

School Contact Information

School Name

Lenora B Smith Elementary School

Address

4700 NW 12th Avenue
Miami FL 33127

Phone

305 635 0873

Grades

PreK to Fifth Grade

District

Miami Dade County Public Schools

1. Student Demographics and Support Services

- Approximately 49 percent African American, 47 percent Hispanic, and 4 percent other groups
- Around 68 percent of students qualify for free or reduced price lunch

Support includes English language instruction, special education, gifted education, small group tutoring in reading and math, counseling, academic coaching, and Title I support focused on attendance and learning recovery

2. Academic Standing and Programs

- Math proficiency is around 42 percent, reading proficiency near 27 percent
- The school offers Gifted and Talented classes and literacy nights

- Instructional coaching and data driven strategies are present; however academic results remain well below benchmarks and decline in fourth grade proficiency was cited as a major concern

3. Facilities and Learning Environment

The campus features standard classrooms, a media center, and outdoor areas. Arrival and dismissal routines are supervised. Occasional family events such as reading nights aim to support engagement though academic consistency remains a focus

4. Values and Policy Environment

District policy identifies gender identity and sexual orientation as protected categories. Staff are required to use student chosen names and pronouns starting in PreK, with no parental opt-out. No formal LGBTQ curriculum exists at the elementary level, but inclusive language may appear during counseling or announcements. Parents may wish to discuss how these policies are applied in classroom practice

5. Bathroom Policy and Privacy

Restrooms are gender segregated with separate facilities for boys and girls. Supervision is present in hallways and shared spaces. No co-ed or shared bathroom policies appear in effect. Parents can request confirmation or a campus tour if desired

6. Recent Issues of Note

Chronic absenteeism is a serious issue affecting over 60 percent of students missing eleven or more days. The school improvement plan includes attendance incentives, outreach to families, and structured monitoring. Academic decline, especially in fourth grade proficiency, has been identified as a critical area for improvement. No significant safety incidents or discipline controversies were noted

7. Parent Engagement and Communication

Parents can join advisory councils, Parent Academy sessions, reading nights, and volunteer events. Communication is delivered via newsletters and messaging platforms. Most families describe staff as caring, though some report variability in responsiveness

8. Parent Concerns and Suggested Actions

Families with traditional or faith based values may wish to explore:

- How pronoun and identity protocols are introduced to early grade students
- Academic intervention options for students performing well below grade level
- Notification practices following attendance or behavior concerns
- Opportunities to engage in advisory roles or volunteer with school events

Recommended next steps for parents:

- Visit the school and meet with administrators to discuss academic goals and policy implementation
- Attend family engagement events to observe classroom environment

- Request the parent handbook for policies on identity, attendance, and discipline
 - Monitor attendance and learning progress closely and request support as needed
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Final Rating: 2.5 out of 10

Policy Environment 2

Identity and pronoun rules begin in PreK without parental opt-out option

School Practice 3

Some academic supports exist but proficiency remains far below expectations

Classroom Exposure 4

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

Community Culture 4

Staff and parent involvement exist; academic consistency and communication effectiveness vary

Final Summary for Parents

Lenora B Smith Elementary faces serious academic shortcomings and a high rate of chronic absenteeism. Reading and math proficiency are significantly below state averages. The school enforces district identity policies from early grades and uses traditional gender specific restrooms. Parents seeking strong academic performance or limited exposure to early identity messaging may wish to visit classrooms, consult with school leaders, and assess whether the school environment aligns with their family expectations before enrolling.