

# Community Report on Ludlam Elementary School A Traditional Parent's Perspective on School Policies and Environment

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# **Community Report on Ludlam Elementary School**

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

**Ludlam Elementary School** serves PreK through Fifth Grade in South Miami. The school enrolls approximately 271 students with a student teacher ratio of roughly 14 to 1. Academic performance outpaces district and state averages with about 67 percent proficiency in math and 62 percent proficiency in reading. Nonetheless, chronic absenteeism has risen sharply to around 31 percent in the 2023-24 year. From a traditional or faith based viewpoint, the school receives a **rating of 3.5 out of 10**, reflecting strong academic programming balanced against attendance concerns and district identity policies that may not align with all families.

# **School Contact Information**

**School Name** 

**Ludlam Elementary School** 

#### **Address**

6639 SW 74TH Street South Miami FL 33143

#### **Phone**

305 667 5551

#### Grades

PreK to Fifth Grade

#### **District**

Miami Dade County Public Schools

# 1. Student Demographics and Support Services

- Enrollment is about 95 percent minority, primarily Hispanic with a smaller African American population
- Approximately 53 percent of students qualify for free or reduced price lunch Support services include gifted education, English language learner instruction, special education, targeted tutoring in reading and math, counseling, and Title I resources to support attendance and academic recovery

#### 2. Academic Standing and Programs

- Math proficiency is around 67 percent, reading proficiency near 62 percent
- The school offers Gifted and Talented programs, STEM enrichment, after school academic

supports, and family literacy events

• Instruction is guided by data-driven strategies and instructional coaching to maintain high achievement

#### 3. Facilities and Learning Environment

The campus features modern classrooms, a media and technology center, and outdoor learning facilities. Arrival and dismissal routines are supervised for safety. The school hosts family engagement events such as reading nights and science fairs to support learning and community involvement

## 4. Values and Policy Environment

District policy classifies gender identity and sexual orientation as protected categories. Staff must honor student chosen names and pronouns beginning in PreK without an opt-out option. While no formal LGBTQ curriculum is offered in early grades, inclusive language may appear during counseling or general announcements. Parents wishing limited exposure may consult school leadership about daily implementation and values alignment

# 5. Bathroom Policy and Privacy

Restrooms are gender segregated with separate facilities for boys and girls. Hallway adult supervision is standard. No shared or coed restrooms are in use. Parents may request a school tour to verify current arrangements

#### 6. Recent Issues of Note

Chronic absenteeism rose from about 16 percent in 2022-23 to around 31 percent in 2023-24. The school is addressing the issue with family outreach, attendance monitoring, and student-level incentives. No major safety incidents or misconduct issues have been publicly reported

# 7. Parent Engagement and Communication

Parents can participate in advisory meetings, Parent Academy events, enrichment activities, and volunteer opportunities. Communication is delivered through newsletters, messaging platforms, and school alerts. Many families report a supportive atmosphere; some note occasional delay in staff responses

## 8. Parent Concerns and Suggested Actions

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

- How pronoun and identity policies are introduced at very early grade levels
- Academic support for students needing reinforcement in reading or math
- Notification procedures following attendance, behavior, or academic issues
- Opportunities to engage in school governance or volunteer programming

Recommended next steps for parents:

- Visit the school early in the year and meet school leadership
- Attend reading or enrichment events to observe classroom dynamics

- Request the parent handbook for policies on identity, attendance, and discipline
- Monitor attendance and academic progress and request help when needed

# Final Rating: 3.5 out of 10

Policy Environment 2

Identity and pronoun practices apply from PreK onward with no parental opt-out allowed

School Practice 5

Academic programming and enrichment are strong, though absenteeism limits full impact

Classroom Exposure 4

Inclusive language may appear informally; no structured LGBTQ curriculum for early grades

Community Culture 6

Engaged families and caring staff support a positive environment; attendance follow-through and communication consistency vary

# **Final Summary for Parents**

Ludlam Elementary delivers high academic results and enrichment opportunities in a supportive suburban environment. The school's greatest challenge is rising chronic absenteeism. Identity protocols begin at the earliest grade levels and bathrooms remain gender-segregated. Families seeking consistent academics with minimal early exposure to identity topics may benefit from touring the school, discussing policy application with school leaders, and confirming how attendance concerns are addressed.