



Community Report on Paul Laurence Dunbar K-8 Center
A Traditional Parent's Perspective on School Policies and Environment

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Paul Laurence Dunbar K-8 Center serves students from PreK through Eighth Grade in Miami. The school enrolls approximately 470 students with a student teacher ratio of about fourteen to one. Academic performance is below the district average, with approximately 27 percent proficiency in math and 34 percent in reading. From a traditional or faith based perspective the school receives a rating of 3 out of 10 due to academic challenges and district policies on gender identity that may not align with all families.

School Contact Information

School Name

Paul Laurence Dunbar K 8 Center

Address

505 Northwest 20th Street
Miami FL 33136

Phone

305 576 5335

Grades

PreK to Eighth Grade

District

Miami Dade County Public Schools

1. Student Demographics and Support Services

- The student body is approximately 87 percent African American, 12 percent Hispanic, and 1 percent other

- More than 90 percent of students qualify for free or reduced price lunch

Support services include Title I academic intervention, counseling, after school tutoring, special education, and mentoring programs

2. Academic Standing and Programs

- Math proficiency is around 27 percent and reading proficiency about 34 percent
- The school offers extended learning opportunities through after school tutoring and Saturday school
- Instructional support includes literacy coaches, intervention teachers, and individualized education plans

3. Facilities and Learning Environment

The campus includes a mix of older and updated facilities, a media center, computer labs, and a multipurpose room for events. Safety procedures are implemented during arrival and dismissal. Limited facility upgrades may reflect funding constraints

4. Values and Policy Environment

District policy requires staff to affirm student selected gender identity and pronouns starting in PreK. Parents cannot opt out. Though early grade curriculum does not formally include LGBTQ content, inclusive language and counseling references may occur. Parents who prioritize traditional values may want to review classroom applications of these policies

5. Bathroom Policy and Privacy

Bathrooms are gender separated with supervision in place. No gender neutral or mixed use bathrooms are reported. Common areas and transitions are monitored by staff for student safety

6. Recent Issues of Note

Academic performance remains a concern with ongoing efforts to improve outcomes through district supported programs. Chronic absenteeism data is not clearly documented. There are no widely reported incidents regarding safety or misconduct at this time

7. Religious Practices

No reports indicate opposition to religious expression. Students may pray or express their faith during non instructional periods such as lunch or recess. Religious attire is permitted in line with district guidelines

8. Parent Engagement and Communication

The school maintains communication through automated calls, newsletters, and family events. Parent involvement opportunities include advisory council meetings, literacy nights, and volunteer roles. Some families have expressed concerns over limited response to academic or behavioral inquiries

9. Parent Concerns and Suggested Actions

Families with traditional or religious values may wish to consider:

- How gender identity policies are implemented in the classroom
- The school's performance trends and intervention offerings
- Communication consistency between staff and families
- Whether religious accommodations are respected in practice

Recommended next steps for parents:

- Schedule a school tour and discuss any concerns with administration
- Ask for student progress data and available support programs
- Attend parent meetings and volunteer when possible
- Clarify policies on identity, discipline, and religious freedom

Final Rating: 3 out of 10**Policy Environment 2**

District gender identity rules start in early grades without parental opt out

School Practice 3

Efforts to support students are in place but academic performance is well below average

Classroom Exposure 4

Inclusive language may be used in counseling or informal settings even in early grades

Community Culture 3

Staff are supportive but communication and academic results require closer parental monitoring

Final Summary for Parents

Paul Laurence Dunbar K 8 Center supports student development through mentoring and intervention programs but faces ongoing academic challenges. Gender identity policies are district mandated and begin in PreK. Religious expression is allowed during personal time. Families are encouraged to visit the school, clarify expectations, and monitor their child's academic and emotional progress throughout the year.