



Community Report on Phillis Wheatley Elementary School
A Traditional Parent's Perspective on School Policies and Environment

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Phillis Wheatley Elementary School serves students from PreK through Fifth Grade in the Overtown neighborhood of Miami. It enrolls approximately 280 students, with a student teacher ratio of roughly fourteen to one. Academic performance is below district average, with proficiency scores near 27 percent in math and 22 percent in reading. From a traditional or faith based perspective the school receives a rating of 3 out of 10, reflecting low academic outcomes, high poverty levels, and district wide identity policies that may not align with every family's values.

School Contact Information

School Name

Phillis Wheatley Elementary School

Address

1801 Northwest 1st Place

Miami FL 33136

Phone

305 324 4551

Grades

PreK to Fifth Grade

District

Miami Dade County Public Schools

1. Student Demographics and Support Services

- The student population is approximately 92 percent Black, 7 percent Hispanic, and 1 percent multiracial

- Over 95 percent of students qualify for free or reduced price lunch

Support services include Title I academic intervention, emotional and behavioral support, speech and language services, and counseling. Programs are tailored for at risk students and include trauma informed practices

2. Academic Standing and Programs

- Math proficiency is around 27 percent and reading proficiency near 22 percent

- The school offers small group intervention, literacy nights, and targeted reading instruction

- Additional services include after school tutoring and individualized education plans for students needing extra help

3. Facilities and Learning Environment

The school has aging infrastructure with renovated classrooms, a media center, computer labs, and limited green space. Safety protocols are in place with monitored entry and dismissal. Community partnerships provide enrichment and support

4. Values and Policy Environment

District policy mandates the use of student selected names and pronouns beginning in PreK. No opt out is available for parents. LGBTQ related discussions may surface in social emotional learning or counseling but are not formally part of early curriculum. Parents with traditional perspectives should inquire directly about how these policies are applied in classrooms

5. Bathroom Policy and Privacy

Bathrooms are designated by gender and supervised during peak times. No shared or gender neutral restrooms are in use. Hallways and common spaces are monitored by staff

6. Recent Issues of Note

No major misconduct cases have been publicly reported. However, academic struggles and high poverty indicators remain persistent. Chronic absenteeism figures are not published but have been noted as a concern in comparable schools within the area

7. Religious Practices

There are no documented restrictions on religious expression. Students may pray or wear religious attire during non instructional time. There are no known incidents of school opposition to religious activity

8. Parent Engagement and Communication

Parent engagement is encouraged through school events, advisory committees, and community programs. Communication is done through printed notices and bilingual messaging. Response times vary, and some families have shared challenges with staff follow up

9. Parent Concerns and Suggested Actions

Families with traditional or faith based concerns may wish to:

- Clarify how identity policies are addressed with young students
- Understand the scope of academic support for below grade level learners
- Observe how school climate reflects core values and safety
- Inquire about opportunities for personal religious practices during the day

Recommended next steps for parents:

- Visit the school and meet with the principal to discuss curriculum and values
- Monitor academic progress and request early intervention if needed
- Attend parent workshops or volunteer when possible
- Request a parent handbook and stay engaged in policy updates

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

District rules on gender identity and pronouns apply from PreK with no parental opt out

School Practice 3

Academic performance is well below average but support services are in place

Classroom Exposure 4

Inclusive language may be used during counseling or peer interaction

Community Culture 3

Dedicated staff and partnerships support student needs though parent engagement and academic outcomes need improvement

Final Summary for Parents

Phillis Wheatley Elementary School provides essential services for a high needs student population and demonstrates a commitment to community support. Academic results remain low and identity policies may not align with all families' expectations. Religious expression is allowed in free periods. Parents are advised to visit the school, engage actively in their child's education, and follow up on academic and behavioral progress regularly.