



Community Report on Shadowlawn Elementary School

A Traditional Parent's Perspective on School Policies and Environment

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Shadowlawn Elementary School serves students from PreK through Fifth Grade in the Little Haiti area of Miami. The school enrolls approximately 127 students and operates with a student-teacher ratio of around twenty-one to one. Academic performance is mixed: roughly 57 percent proficiency in math and 47 percent in reading. From a traditional or faith-based perspective, the school receives a **rating of 4.5 out of 10**, reflecting moderate academic outcomes within a close-knit setting, offset by high absenteeism and district identity policies that some families may question.

School Contact Information

School Name

Shadowlawn Elementary School

Address

149 NW 49th Street

Miami FL 33127

Phone

(305) 758 3673

Grades

PreK to Fifth Grade

District

Miami Dade County Public Schools

1. Student Demographics and Support Services

- Approximately 83 percent of students are African American, around 16 percent Hispanic, and roughly 1 percent White
- About 83 percent qualify for free or reduced lunch

Support services include a gifted and talented program, Cambridge International curriculum, reading and math interventions, counseling, and Title I-funded instruction

2. Academic Standing and Programs

- Math proficiency is around 57 percent; reading proficiency approximately 47 percent
- Rankings place the school in the top fifty percent statewide for math but below average in reading
- The curriculum also includes science instruction, with about one-third of students proficient in science

3. Facilities and Learning Environment

The school maintains small class cohorts within standard classrooms. Secure and supervised arrival and dismissal procedures are enforced. Student-teacher engagement is high due to the small population and individualized attention opportunities

4. Values and Policy Environment

Miami-Dade district policy requires staff to respect student selected names and pronouns starting in PreK, with no parent opt-out. While there is no formal LGBTQ curriculum in the early grades, inclusive references may appear informally through guidance or general communications. Families preferring traditional values may wish to discuss how these are handled in practice

5. Bathroom Policy and Privacy

Restrooms are gender-segregated, and hallways around these areas are monitored by staff. There are no shared or gender-neutral facilities. Parents can observe layout and supervision in person if desired

6. Recent Issues of Note

Chronic absenteeism is notably high, frequently reaching between one-third and nearly one-half of students. The school receives high per-student funding, yet academic performance remains inconsistent. Efforts are underway to support attendance and classroom engagement

7. Religious Practices

There are no recorded incidents of opposition to religious expression. Students are free to pray or engage in personal religious reflection during non-instructional times. The school does not promote, discourage, or interfere with religious activities

8. Parent Engagement and Communication

Parent engagement occurs through school events, advisory councils, and public meetings. Some families note delays in communication or inconsistent follow-through, particularly regarding academic concerns

9. Parent Concerns and Suggested Actions

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

- How gender identity protocols are applied in classrooms and communications
- Academic support for reading proficiency, which is below average
- Approaches to addressing chronic absenteeism
- How religious expression is handled within school culture

Recommended next steps for parents:

- Tour the school and meet with leadership to discuss how values are implemented in practice
- Request documentation (e.g. the handbook) outlining school practices and expectations
- Monitor your child's attendance and learning closely and engage teachers when needed
- Participate in school-community events to stay informed and involved

Final Rating: 4.5 out of 10**Policy Environment 3**

Identity policies begin early and may require discussion for alignment with family values

School Practice 4

Small class sizes support learning, but reading proficiency and attendance remain challenges

Classroom Exposure 4

Inclusive language may be present informally; no formal gender or identity curriculum in early grades

Community Culture 5

A tight community with strong student-teacher relationships; parental engagement and communication have room for improvement

Final Summary for Parents

Shadowlawn Elementary offers an intimate, supportive environment and has strengths in math proficiency. However reading outcomes and absenteeism are concerns. District policies around pronouns and identity begin early and may not align with every parent's values. The school does not restrict religious expression. Parents are encouraged to tour the school, engage proactively in their child's education, and seek clarity on identity policy implementation and academic support systems.