



Community Report on South Miami Heights Elementary School
A Traditional Parent's Perspective on School Policies and Environment

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South Miami Heights Elementary School serves students from PreK through Fifth Grade in the South Miami Heights neighborhood of Miami-Dade County, Florida. The school enrolls approximately 471 students, with a student-teacher ratio of about 16 to 1. Academic performance is moderate, with around 60 percent proficiency in math and 56 percent proficiency in reading. From a traditional or faith-based perspective, the school earns a rating of 6 out of 10, reflecting a strong sense of community and instructional support, but balanced by challenges in academic performance and district identity policies.

School Contact Information

- **School Name:** South Miami Heights Elementary School
 - **Address:** 12231 SW 190th Terrace, Miami, FL 33177
 - **Phone:** (305) 238-6610
 - **Grades:** PreK to Fifth Grade
 - **District:** Miami-Dade County Public Schools
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1. Student Demographics and Support Services

- Approximately 82 percent of students are Hispanic, 13 percent are Black, and 3 percent are White
- About 68 percent qualify for free or reduced-price lunch
Support services include bilingual education, Title I academic support, after-school tutoring, and enrichment programs such as art and music

2. Academic Standing and Programs

- Math proficiency is approximately 60 percent and reading proficiency is about 56 percent, both above state averages
- Instruction is supported by a full-time gifted program, STEAM enrichment, and data-driven interventions

3. Facilities and Learning Environment

The campus offers structured supervision during arrival and dismissal. As a smaller school, it maintains a tight-knit community feel and hosts parent-teacher events to foster engagement.

4. Values and Policy Environment

District policy requires the use of students' chosen names and pronouns beginning in PreK, with no opt-out. While no formal LGBTQ curriculum exists in early grades, inclusive language may occasionally appear during guidance or in communications. Families with traditional values may wish to clarify how these policies are implemented in the classroom.

5. Bathroom Policy and Privacy

Restrooms are gender-segregated with staff supervision in common areas. No shared or gender-neutral facilities are indicated. Parents are encouraged to visit to verify arrangements if needed.

6. Recent Issues of Note

Chronic absenteeism remains a concern, with some students missing significant amounts of school. Despite increased funding, academic progress, particularly in reading, is limited. The school continues to focus on attendance engagement efforts.

7. Religious Practices

There have been no reports restricting religious expression. Students may pray privately or express personal religious beliefs during non-instructional times.

8. Parent Engagement and Communication

Parents can take part in school events, advisory council meetings, and workshops. Communication is bilingual, though some families note variable response times from staff.

9. Parent Concerns and Suggested Actions

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

- How identity and pronoun policies are applied in early grades
- Academic support available for reading and other challenges
- Attendance interventions and communication effectiveness
- Respect for private religious expression

Recommended next steps for parents:

- Tour the school and meet with leaders to discuss values in practice
- Request the parent handbook outlining policies and expectations
- Monitor your child's attendance and academic progress actively
- Participate in parent events for direct insight into school culture

Final Rating: 6 out of 10

- **Policy Environment:** 5
 - **School Practice:** 6
 - **Classroom Exposure:** 6
 - **Community Culture:** 7
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Final Summary for Parents

South Miami Heights Elementary provides enriching academic programs and a caring community in a compact, supportive setting. Academic performance, particularly in math and reading, is above district and state averages, and attendance remains a concern. District-wide identity policies are in effect from the earliest grades, which may raise concerns for families seeking a more traditional approach. However, religious expression is permitted and not restricted. Families are encouraged to proactively engage with school leadership, clarify how policies align with their values, and partner closely with educators to support their child's success.