



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

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Sylvania Heights Elementary School serves students from PreK through Fifth Grade in the West Miami area of Miami-Dade County, Florida. The school enrolls approximately 547 students, with a student-teacher ratio of about 16 to 1. Academic performance is strong, with around 68 percent proficiency in math and 62 percent proficiency in reading. However, chronic absenteeism is a concern, and district identity policies may raise issues for families with traditional values. From a traditional or faith-based perspective, the school earns a rating of **5.5 out of 10**, reflecting academic strengths balanced by concerns regarding attendance and identity policies.

School Contact Information

- **School Name:** Sylvania Heights Elementary School
 - **Address:** 5901 SW 16th St, Miami, FL 33155
 - **Phone:** (305) 266-3511
 - **Grades:** PreK to Fifth Grade
 - **District:** Miami-Dade County Public Schools
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1. Student Demographics and Support Services

- Approximately 96 percent of students are Hispanic
- About 55 percent qualify for free or reduced-price lunch
- Support services include Gifted & Talented programs, Title I academic support, after-school tutoring, and enrichment programs such as art, music, physical education, and STEM activities

2. Academic Standing and Programs

- Math proficiency is approximately 68 percent and reading proficiency is about 62 percent
- Instruction is supported by data-driven coaching partnerships and targeted small group 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
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Final Rating: 5.5 out of 10

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

Sylvania 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, but 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. 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.