



Community Report on Zora Neale Hurston Elementary School
A Traditional Parent's Perspective on School Policies and Environment

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Zora Neale Hurston Elementary School is a public school located in Miami, Florida, serving students from PreK through Fifth Grade. The school enrolls approximately 472 students, with a student-teacher ratio of about 13:1. Academic performance is above state averages, with around 61% proficiency in math and 55–59% proficiency in reading. However, chronic absenteeism has been a concern, with rates increasing from 18.7% in 2021–2022 to 31.4% in 2023–2024, significantly higher than the state average. From a traditional or faith-based perspective, the school earns a rating of **6 out of 10**, reflecting academic strengths tempered by concerns regarding attendance and identity policies.

School Contact Information

- **School Name:** Zora Neale Hurston Elementary School
 - **Address:** 13137 SW 26th St, Miami, FL 33175
 - **Phone:** (305) 222-8152
 - **Grades:** PreK to Fifth Grade
 - **District:** Miami-Dade County Public Schools
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1. Student Demographics and Support Services

- Approximately 97.7% Hispanic, 1.5% White, and 0.8% Asian
- About 52.3% qualify for free or reduced-price lunch
- Support services include Gifted & Talented programs, Title I academic support, bilingual education, after-school tutoring, and enrichment programs such as art, music, physical education, and STEM activities

2. Academic Standing and Programs

- Math proficiency is approximately 61% and reading proficiency is about 55–59%
- Instruction is supported by data-driven coaching partnerships and targeted small group interventions
- Offers Cambridge International curriculum

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 has been a concern, with rates increasing from 18.7% in 2021–2022 to 31.4% in 2023–2024, significantly higher than the state average. 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: 6 out of 10

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

Zora Neale Hurston 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. However, chronic absenteeism remains a concern, and 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.