

Forest Hill Elementary School Mobile County Board of Education

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Introduction

AdvancED's Self Assessment (SA) diagnostic is based on the AdvancED Standards of Quality, which serves as the foundation of the accreditation and continuous improvement process. The SA is a valuable tool for collaboratively engaging staff members and stakeholders in purposeful, honest dialogue and reflection to assess the institution's adherence to the Standards, and guide its continuous improvement efforts. The SA includes the institution's self-ratings of and the evidence cited for each of the indicators, comments that explain the indicator's ratings and an overall narrative for each Standard. The results of the SA are reviewed by the External Review Team as one essential component of the preparation process for the institution's External Review.

Standard 1: Purpose and Direction

The school maintains and communicates a purpose and direction that commit to high expectations for learning as well as shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning.

Overall Rating: 3.0

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
1.1	The school engages in a systematic, inclusive, and comprehensive process to review, revise, and communicate a school purpose for student success.	The school's process for review, revision, and communication of the purpose statement is documented. The process is formalized and implemented on a regular schedule. The process includes participation by representatives from all stakeholder groups. The purpose statement focuses on student success.	Survey results Examples of communications to stakeholders about the school's purpose (i.e. website, newsletters, annual report, student handbook) Purpose statements - past and present	Level 3

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
1.2	commit to a culture that is based on shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning and supports challenging, equitable educational programs and learning experiences for all students that include	Commitment to shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning is evident in documentation and decision making. This commitment is regularly reflected in communication among leaders and staff. Challenging educational programs and equitable learning experiences are implemented so that all students achieve learning, thinking, and life skills necessary for success. Evidence indicates a commitment to instructional practices that include active student engagement, a focus on depth of understanding, and the application of knowledge and skills. School leadership and staff share high expectations for professional practice.	Survey results The school's statement of purpose	Level 3

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
1.3	The school's leadership	School leaders implement a	•Survey results	Level 3
	implements a continuous	documented, systematic continuous		
	improvement process that	improvement process for improving	•The school data profile	
	provides clear direction for	student learning and the conditions that	·	
	improving conditions that support	support learning. All stakeholder groups	•The school continuous	
	student learning.	are engaged in the process. School	improvement plan	
	_	personnel maintain a profile with current		
		and comprehensive data on student and		
		school performance. The profile contains		
		analyses of data used to identify goals		
		for the improvement of achievement and		
		instruction that are aligned with the		
		school's purpose. Improvement goals		
		have measurable performance targets.		
		The process includes action planning		
		that identifies measurable objectives,		
		strategies, activities, resources, and		
		timelines for achieving improvement		
		goals. School leaders hold all school		
		personnel accountable for and evaluate		
		the overall quality of the implementation		
		of all interventions and strategies. The		
		process is reviewed and evaluated.		
		Documentation that the process yields		
		improved student achievement and		
		instruction is available and		
		communicated to stakeholders.		

The Standard 1 Committee has concluded that Forest Hill Elementary has a clear mission statement that focuses on student success. Forest Hill also has what we refer to as the ABCs of Forest Hill. "A" represents students achieving academic success. "B" represents students believing in themselves. "C" represents students rising to meet the academic challenges. This mission statement and Forest Hill Brand are recited by students during morning announcements and posted in each classroom, as well as on our school website. School leadership strives to provide high expectations for instructional practices, as well as professional development. We provide challenging educational programs and equitable learning experiences that are implemented so all students achieve learning, thinking, and life skills that are necessary for success. Professional development focuses on assisting teachers to successfully implement the best research-based strategies to obtain student success. Weekly collaboration meetings are held with each grade level to track student performance, monitor student growth, and identify successful teaching strategies, and review work samples, as well as student data.

Areas of Strengths

Forest Hill Elementary has several areas of strength under Standard I. We have a mission statement that is clear and directly relates to student success. The Forest Hill Continuous Improvement Plan helps to ensure student success. We will continue to sustain these strengths by keeping all stakeholders informed of our direction and purpose, and we will continue to utilize professional development as a means to ensure student success.

Areas for Improvement

We need better methods of communicating the school's process for review and revision of our school purpose. We also need to better communicate our school improvement processes for student learning, and the conditions that support student learning with our stakeholders. We have already begun to address these areas of improvement by using the following strategies: Using social media as one method of communication, providing online access to student grades, and online apps such as Remind to provide various information.

Standard 2: Governance and Leadership

The school operates under governance and leadership that promote and support student performance and school effectiveness.

Overall Rating: 2.67

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
2.1	The governing body establishes policies and supports practices that ensure effective administration of the school.	Policies and practices support the school's purpose and direction and the effective operation of the school. Policies and practices promote effective instruction and assessment that produce equitable and challenging learning experiences for all students. There are policies and practices regarding professional growth of all staff. Policies and practices provide requirements, direction for, and oversight of fiscal management.		Level 3

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
2.2	The governing body operates responsibly and functions effectively.	ensure that its decisions and actions are in accordance with defined roles and	Governing body minutes relating to training List of assigned staff for compliance	Level 3

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
2.3	the school leadership has the autonomy to meet goals for achievement and instruction and to manage day-to-day operations effectively.	school leadership to accomplish goals for improvement in student learning and instruction and to manage day-to-day operations of the school. The governing body usually maintains a distinction	•Roles and responsibilities of school leadership •School improvement plan developed by the school •Survey results regarding functions of the governing body	Level 2

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
2.4	Leadership and staff foster a culture consistent with the school's purpose and direction.	Leaders and staff align their decisions and actions toward continuous improvement to achieve the school's purpose. They expect all students to be held to high standards in all courses of study. All leaders and staff are collectively accountable for student learning. School leaders support innovation, collaboration, shared leadership, and professional growth. The culture is characterized by collaboration	Examples of collaboration and shared leadership Survey results Examples of decisions in support of the school's continuous improvement plan	_
2.4	culture consistent with the	and actions toward continuous improvement to achieve the school's purpose. They expect all students to be held to high standards in all courses of study. All leaders and staff are collectively accountable for student learning. School leaders support innovation, collaboration, shared leadership, and professional growth. The	and shared leadership •Survey results •Examples of decisions in support of the school's continuous improvement plan	Level

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
2.5		decisions, solicit feedback and respond to stakeholders, work collaboratively on school improvement efforts, and provide	Minutes from meetings with stakeholders Copies of surveys or screen shots from online surveys Survey responses	Level 3

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
2.6	Leadership and staff supervision and evaluation processes result in improved professional practice and student success.	The criteria and processes of supervision and evaluation include references to professional practice and student success. Supervision and evaluation processes are implemented at minimal levels. The results of the supervision and evaluation processes are used sometimes to monitor and effectively adjust professional practice and improve student learning.	Examples of professional development offerings and plans tied specifically to the results from supervision and evaluation Supervision and evaluation documents with criteria for improving professional practice and student success noted Representative supervision and evaluation reports	

Areas of Strength

The Standard II committee of Forest Hill Elementary School found our greatest strength lays in how the leadership and staff foster a culture consistent with the school's purpose and direction. All decisions made are based upon the needs of the students and how such decisions will impact student achievement. Teachers at FHE understand what it means to be accountable for student learning and they welcome its challenges. The administration is supportive by encouraging collaboration among colleagues, innovative teaching strategies and providing professional growth opportunities. We will continue to sustain strengths is this area by maintaining funding for professional development and collaboration.

Areas for Improvement

Forest Hill noted areas for improvement in communicating effectively with stakeholder groups. Stakeholders need more of an opportunity to shape decisions, provide feedback and work more collaboratively on school improvement efforts. Although stakeholders are always invited to meetings and school functions more of an effort needs to be given to provide them a more active role in the decision making process. We have also discovered that we need to be able to provide more documentation on how shared values and beliefs about teaching and learning are evident within our school. We plan to make improvements in these areas by providing more opportunities for collaboration for stakeholders, faculty, and staff where each group will have documented roles and responsibilities. This will provide us with data to help improve in both of the above areas.

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Standard 3: Teaching and Assessing for Learning

The school's curriculum, instructional design, and assessment practices guide and ensure teacher effectiveness and student learning.

Overall Rating: 2.67

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
3.1	The school's curriculum provides equitable and challenging	Curriculum and learning experiences in each course/class provide all students	•Survey results	Level 3
	learning experiences that ensure	with challenging and equitable opportunities to develop learning skills,	•Lesson plans	
opportunities to develop learning	opportunities to develop learning, thinking, and life skills that lead to	thinking skills, and life skills. There is some evidence to indicate curriculum	 Posted learning objectives 	
	success at the next level.	and learning experiences prepare students for success at the next level.	•Course schedules	
		Like courses/classes have equivalent learning expectations. Some learning		
		activities are individualized for each student in a way that supports		
		achievement of expectations.		

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
3.2 Curriculum, instruction, and assessment are monitored an adjusted systematically in response to data from multiple		Using data from student assessments and an examination of professional	Curriculum guides	Level 3
		practice, school personnel monitor and adjust curriculum, instruction, and	•Surveys results	
	assessments of student learning and an examination of professional practice.	assessment to ensure vertical and horizontal alignment and alignment with the school's goals for achievement and instruction and statement of purpose. There is a process in place to ensure alignment each time curriculum, instruction, and/or assessments are reviewed or revised. The continuous	Lesson plans aligned to the curriculum	
		improvement process ensures that vertical and horizontal alignment as well as alignment with the school's purpose are maintained and enhanced in curriculum, instruction, and assessment.		

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
3.3	Teachers engage students in their learning through instructional strategies that ensure achievement of learning expectations.	Teachers plan and use instructional strategies that require student collaboration, self-reflection, and development of critical thinking skills. Teachers personalize instructional strategies and interventions to address individual learning needs of students when necessary. Teachers use instructional strategies that require students to apply knowledge and skills, integrate content and skills with other disciplines, and use technologies as instructional resources and learning tools.	Agenda items addressing these strategies Professional development focused on these strategies Findings from supervisor walk-thrus and observations Surveys results	

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
3.4	instructional practices of teachers	School leaders monitor instructional practices through supervision and evaluation procedures to ensure that they 1) are aligned with the school's values and beliefs about teaching and learning, 2) are teaching the approved curriculum, 3) are directly engaged with all students in the oversight of their learning, and 4) use content-specific standards of professional practice.	Documentation of collection of lesson plans and grade books Peer or mentoring opportunities and interactions Surveys results	Level 2

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
3.5	Teachers participate in collaborative learning communities to improve instruction and student learning.	All members of the school staff participate in collaborative learning communities that meet both informally and formally. Collaboration often occurs across grade levels and content areas. Staff members have been trained to implement a formal process that promotes discussion about student learning. Learning from, using, and discussing the results of inquiry practices such as action research, the examination of student work, reflection, study teams, and peer coaching occur regularly among most school personnel. School personnel indicate that collaboration causes improvement results in instructional practice and student performance.	Agendas and minutes of collaborative learning committees Calendar/schedule of learning community meetings Survey results Peer coaching guidelines and procedures	Level 3

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
3.6	instructional process in support of student learning.	process that informs students of learning expectations and standards of performance. Exemplars are sometimes provided to guide and inform students. The process may include multiple measures, including formative assessments, to inform the ongoing modification of instruction. The process	Examples of learning expectations and standards of performance Survey results Examples of assessments that prompted modification in instruction	Level 2

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
3.7	induction programs support instructional improvement consistent with the school's values and beliefs about teaching	mentoring, coaching, and induction programs that are consistent with the school's values and beliefs about	Survey results Professional learning calendar with activities for instructional support of new staff	Level 2

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
3.8	The school engages families in meaningful ways in their children's education and keeps them informed of their children's learning progress.	implemented. School personnel regularly inform families of their children's learning progress.	Survey results Volunteer program with variety of options for participation List of varied activities and communications modes with families, e.g., info portal, online, newsletters, parent centers, academic nights, open house, early release days	Level 3

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
3.9	whereby each student is well	School personnel participate in a structure that gives them long-term interaction with individual students, allowing them to build strong relationships over time with the student. All students may participate in the structure. The structure allows the school employee to gain insight into and serve as an advocate for the student's needs regarding learning skills, thinking skills, and life skills.	List of students matched to adult advocate Survey results	Level 3

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
3.10	Grading and reporting are based on clearly defined criteria that represent the attainment of content knowledge and skills and are consistent across grade levels and courses.	Teachers use common grading and reporting policies, processes, and procedures based on clearly defined criteria that represent each student's attainment of content knowledge and skills. These policies, processes, and procedures are implemented consistently across grade levels and courses. Stakeholders are aware of the policies, processes, and procedures. The policies, processes, and procedures are regularly evaluated.	Evaluation process for grading and reporting practices Survey results Sample report cards for each grade level and for all courses Policies, processes, and procedures on grading and reporting	Level 3

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
3.11	All staff members participate in a continuous program of professional learning.	Most staff members participate in a program of professional learning that is aligned with the school's purpose and direction. Professional development is based on the needs of the school. The program builds capacity among staff members who participate. The program is regularly evaluated for effectiveness.	Results of evaluation of professional learning program. Evaluation tools for professional learning Survey results Brief explanation of alignment between professional learning and identified needs	Level 2

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Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
3.12	The school provides and coordinates learning support services to meet the unique learning needs of students.	School personnel use data to identify unique learning needs of all students at all levels of proficiency as well as other learning needs (such as second languages). School personnel stay current on research related to unique characteristics of learning (such as learning styles, multiple intelligences, personality type indicators) and provide or coordinate related learning support services to all students.	Survey results List of learning support services and student population served by such services Data used to identify unique learning needs of students	Level 3

Reflect upon your responses to each of the indicators and performance levels by considering and responding to the following questions when drafting your narrative response. Use language from the performance level descriptions to guide your writing. Cite sources of evidence External Review team members may be interested in reviewing.

Forest Hill Elementary has several strengths noted under Standard III. Strengths for Forest Hill are as follows: response to data, collaboration with learning communities, meaningful ways of engaging families, curriculum, instruction, and assessment. We will continue to sustain these areas of strength by consistently monitoring data through frequent data and collaboration meetings. We will continue to engage our stakeholders through the use of media sources, newsletters, and our online INOW parent portal, which can be used to access student grades and attendance.

Areas of Focus:

The Forest Hill Standard III committee identified two areas of focus. We need to ensure that all school personnel are engaged in systematic mentoring, coaching, and induction programs that support instructional improvement. We also need to ensure that all staff members participate in a continuous learning program of professional development. We plan to ensure that paraprofessionals, as well as support staff, understand the importance of their role and how they support the mission of Forest Hill Elementary School. Although the district offers training throughout the year for support staff, we feel that the LEA should also provide additional professional learning opportunities that are pertinent to our school.

Standard 4: Resources and Support Systems

The school has resources and provides services that support its purpose and direction to ensure success for all students.

Overall Rating: 3.0

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
4.1	.1 Qualified professional and support staff are sufficient in number to fulfill their roles and	Policies, processes, and procedures ensure that school leaders have access to, hire, place, and retain qualified	•School budgets for the last three years	Level 3
	responsibilities necessary to support the school's purpose,	professional and support staff. School leaders systematically determine the	•Survey results	
	direction, and the educational program.	number of personnel necessary to fill all the roles and responsibilities necessary to support the school purpose,	•Documentation of highly qualified staff	
		educational programs, and continuous improvement. Sustained fiscal resources are available to fund positions critical to		
	achieve the purpose and direction of the school.			

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
4.2	Instructional time, material resources, and fiscal resources are sufficient to support the purpose and direction of the school.	Instructional time, material resources, and fiscal resources are focused on supporting the purpose and direction of the school. Instructional time is protected in policy and practice. School leaders work to secure material and fiscal	Examples of efforts of school leaders to secure necessary material and fiscal resources Survey results	Level 3
		resources to meet the needs of all students. School leaders demonstrate that instructional time, material resources, and fiscal resources are allocated so that all students have	School schedule Alignment of budget with school purpose and	
		equitable opportunities to attain challenging learning expectations. Efforts toward the continuous improvement of instruction and operations include achieving the school's purpose and direction.	School calendar	

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
4.3	environment for all students and staff.	clear expectations for maintaining safety, cleanliness, and a healthy environment and have shared these definitions and expectations with stakeholders. School personnel and students are accountable for maintaining these expectations. Measures are in place that allow for continuous tracking of these conditions. Improvement plans are developed and	Survey results Documentation of compliance with local and state inspections requirements Documentation of emergency procedures such as fire drills, evacuation and other emergency procedures.	Level 3

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
4.4	Students and school personnel use a range of media and information resources to support the school's educational programs.	Students and school personnel have access to media and information resources necessary to achieve the educational programs of the school. Qualified personnel are available to assist students and school personnel in learning about the tools and locations for finding and retrieving information.	Budget related to media and information resource acquisition Survey results Schedule of staff availability to assist students and school personnel related to finding and retrieving information	Level 3

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
4.5	learning, and operational needs.	teaching, learning, and operational needs of all stakeholders. School personnel develop and administer needs assessments and use the resulting data to develop and implement a technology plan to improve technology services and infrastructure.	Technology plan and budget to improve technology services and infrastructure Survey results Policies relative to technology use	Level 3

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
4.6	The school provides support services to meet the physical, social, and emotional needs of the student population being served.	School personnel implement a process to determine the physical, social, and emotional needs of each student in the school. School personnel provide or coordinate programs to meet the needs of students as necessary. Measures of program effectiveness are in place, and school personnel use the data from these measures to evaluate all programs. Improvement plans related to these programs are designed and implemented when needed to more effectively meet the needs of students.	Agreements with school community agencies for student-family support Survey results Social classes and services, e.g., bullying, character education List of support services available to students	Level 3

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
4.7	support the counseling, assessment, referral, educational, and career planning needs of all students.	School personnel implement a process to determine the counseling, assessment, referral, educational, and career planning needs of all students. School personnel provide or coordinate programs necessary to meet the needs of students whenever possible. Measures of program effectiveness are in place, and school personnel use the data from these measures to evaluate all programs. Improvement plans related to these programs are designed and implemented when needed to more effectively meet the needs of students.	List of services available related to counseling, assessment, referral, educational, and career planning Survey results Description of IEP process Description of referral process	Level 3

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Forest Hill Elementary School has a wide range of strengths within the area of support services to meet the needs of students. FHE maintains 100% highly qualified staff and support positions. We pride ourselves in meeting the academic needs, intervention assistance and the emotional/social support that is needed by our students. The FHE faculty and staff, along with student volunteers from local colleges, community mentors, Foster Grandparents and local Big Brother & Big Sister sponsor work diligently to foster healthy relationships promoting student success. We pride ourselves in maintaining a safe, orderly and clean academic environment. Maintenance and safety issues are taken care of in a timely manner. We will continue to sustain our areas of strength by continuing to solicit community based programs to assist and support student needs. We will also continue to use all available funding to support student academic needs and to maintain a safe, orderly and clean school environment.

An area of improvement for Forest Hill Elementary school is our yearly decline in funding. Each year we have seen a decline in Title I funding that is used to support our student population. With declining funds, it is difficult to secure additional technology for students to utilize throughout the day. FHE is already in the beginning stages of addressing this issue. This year, we began implementation of a Bring Your Own Device program. This program allows students to bring their own technology devices to school to support their learning within the classroom. Teachers have been encouraged to write grants to request funding for tablets and laptops, which will also be used in their classrooms.

Standard 5: Using Results for Continuous Improvement

The school implements a comprehensive assessment system that generates a range of data about student learning and school effectiveness and uses the results to guide continuous improvement.

Overall Rating: 2.8

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
5.1	The school establishes and maintains a clearly defined and comprehensive student assessment system.	School personnel maintain and use an assessment system that produces data from multiple assessment measures, including locally developed and standardized assessments about student learning and school performance. The system ensures consistent measurement across classrooms and courses. Most assessments, especially those related to student learning, are proven reliable and bias free. The system is regularly evaluated for reliability and effectiveness in improving instruction, student learning, and the conditions that support learning.	standardized and local assessments on student	Level 3

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
5.2	apply learning from a range of data sources, including	a complete picture of student learning, instruction, the effectiveness of programs, and the conditions that support learning. School personnel use data to design, implement, and evaluate continuous improvement plans to	Survey results Examples of use of data to design, implement, and evaluate continuous improvement plans and apply learning List of data sources related to student learning, instruction, program effectiveness, and conditions that support learning	Level 3

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
	trained in the evaluation, interpretation, and use of data.	members are assessed and trained in a professional development program	•Survey results •Training materials specific to the evaluation, interpretation, and use of data	Level 2

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
5.4		Policies and procedures describe a process for analyzing data that determine verifiable improvement in student learning, including readiness for and success at the next level. Results indicate improvement, and school personnel consistently use these results to design, implement, and evaluate the results of continuous improvement action plans related to student learning, including readiness for and success at the next level.	Student surveys Agendas, minutes of meetings related to analysis of data Evidence of student growth	Level 3

Indicator	Statement or Question	Response	Evidence	Rating
5.5	information about student learning, conditions that support student learning, and the achievement of school	and the achievement of school improvement goals. Leaders regularly	Communication plan regarding student learning, conditions that support learning, and achievement of school improvement goals to stakeholders Survey results	Level 3

Areas of Strength

Forest Hill Elementary School has several strengths under Standard 5. The administration of Forest Hill monitors and evaluates student learning goals and student growth through the use of teaching observations and data collection. These findings are discussed in frequent data meetings, collaborative planning days, and during faculty meetings. In addition, Forest Hill personnel consistently uses data from multiple sources, including, Common Formative Assessments, STAR Reading and Math Assessments, End of Quarter Tests (EQT's,) and ACT Aspire to measure the students' academic growth and learning, and to monitor school-wide performance. We will sustain these strengths by continuing to use school- wide common assessments, STAR testing, EQT's and State Assessments to guide instruction and determine student achievement. Finally, frequent data meetings will be held to evaluate student performance and growth.

Areas for Improvement

Most of the staff at Forest Hill Elementary School are trained in the evaluation and interpretation of data and how to use data effectively. However, there are some who are not. There needs to be more professional and support staff trained in the evaluation, interpretation, and use of data to monitor student progress and performance. We will address this need by offering professional development opportunities that are specific in evaluating and using the results of the data to monitor student learning, school effectiveness, and guide school-wide continuous improvement.

Report Summary

Scores By Section

