Executive Summary

Mayfair Laboratory School
East Baton Rouge Parish School System

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Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.
Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

Mayfair Laboratory School is a new and exciting elementary magnet school in East Baton Rouge Parish. Mayfair Lab is a suburban school located in the heart of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. It is in close proximity to Louisiana State University, Louisiana's Flagship University and across town from Southern University, a historical African American University. The school is in close proximity to many learning facilities such as Pennington Biomedical Center, Bluebonnet Swamp Nature Center, Highland Road Observatory, and the Rural Life Museum, not to mention the Planetarium and numerous museums in the downtown area.

Mayfair Laboratory School was created to mirror one of the high achieving and well acclaimed schools in Baton Rouge, University Laboratory School, located a few short miles from Mayfair on the LSU campus. Mayfair is set up with the Instructor/Associate Teacher Model. The teaching staff at University Lab School meets with Mayfair Laboratory teachers to assure that the instruction we provide has a high degree of rigor and is challenging students. The school came into existence in the 2013-2014 school year and has made its beginning marks on the district roster as a top performing school. In the first year, with grades kindergarten through third grade, the school began its quest to empower each student to reach their maximum potential. The school will grow by one grade level each consecutive year until it reaches kindergarten through eighth grade. This school year, 2014 - 2015, Mayfair serves students in grades Kindergarten through Fourth Grades, with continued focus on meaningful engaged learning in a positive, nurturing environment. The current enrollment is 216 students. Mayfair Lab draws its student population from the entire district. Our students come from all areas of East Baton Rouge Parish. Our ethnicity is 29% White, 53% Black, 7% Asian, 6% Hispanic, and 1% Native Hawaiian. The poverty rate is 26%.

Students who enter Mayfair Laboratory must take a nationally norm referenced assessment and meet the required score to be accepted into our school. Therefore, many of the students have a solid educational foundation upon entering our program. While most of our students are considered on level, our staff focuses on differentiating instruction to assure students are working at their highest level. To accomplish this, the teaching staff includes 9 Instructors, 8 Associate Teachers, 1 ESS Instructor, and 1 Paraprofessional. The Ancillary Staff includes an Instructor for Music, Physical Education, Library, and French. There are two sections of each grade level. In Kindergarten through Second Grade, there is one Instructor and one Associate Teacher in each classroom. In third grades and higher, there is one Instructor for each class and one Associate Teacher that serves students in both classes. With more support in the early elementary grades, we strive to have students on level and above by third grade. All classroom Instructors must have a master's degree or higher degree. All Associate Teachers are highly qualified with a degree in Elementary Education. The Instructor and the Associate Teacher work as co-teachers in the classroom to assure that all student needs are met. Mayfair Laboratory School is unique in that it is the only school in East Baton Rouge School System that has the dynamic of two highly certified teachers in each Kindergarten through Second grade class. This also poses a challenge when we are trying to staff our school. Each classroom Instructor has to have a Master's Degree or higher, so it narrows the candidates that our leadership team can choose from.

Another challenge for Mayfair's leadership team is recruiting students. We are faced with competition from Private, Parochial, and Charter Schools trying to entice the same family. Particularly this year, a new Charter school opened up near our school. As a new school, we are not known as well as our more established magnet schools, so our job now is to "get the word out" about our school. Our team uses many avenues, such as positive media coverage of events in our local newspaper to showcasing our school at the community showcase, East Baton Rouge Parish's Mania. However, our best advertisement for the school has been parents enthusiastically telling their neighbors and community about our school. And while, it may be challenging to fill all of our seats each year, we will continue to work with our parents and community to let other families know about the wonderful option of choosing Mayfair as their child's school.

One of our strengths is having a very organized and well run PTA. While attendance at PTA meetings continues to be a challenge, there is
no shortage of attendance at school events such as Open House, Muffins for Mom, Donuts for Dad, Mayfair's May "Fair," and our Living Wax Museum. Parents regularly eat lunch with their child and volunteer in classrooms. Parents have an active voice in their child's education through various avenues, such as participating in surveys and focus groups.
School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

Mayfair Laboratory School believes in Exemplary Education for Every Student. Teachers and students recite this vision statement each morning. Our staff and students also share this vision with all stakeholders in the community. Students are taught to believe that through their positive attitude and hard work they can achieve and excel in a rigorous and challenging learning environment.

To assure students are receiving an exemplary education, teachers collaborate with their grade level and the Instructors at University Lab School during the summer to write learning guides for parents. These learning guides explain to parents what their child will be learning throughout the course of the year. The learning guides showcase exemplars of what reading, writing, and math work should look like at that grade level. Providing the learning guide to parents is critical in assuring parents understand and partner with teachers to provide an exemplary education for their child.

During the school day, the schedule at Mayfair also allows for individualized instruction for every student on the child's functioning educational level. Each day includes a 45 minute academic intervention/enrichment period. Our Kindergarten and First Grade share the same intervention/enrichment period as well as our Third and fourth grades have a shared time period. Students are separated into groups depending on their need for intervention, reteaching, or enrichment in reading and math. Students are able to cross grade levels and work with other teachers during this time. Our Librarian also assists our third, and fourth grade students by offering a book study during this time for the advanced readers. It doesn't matter what class or what grade a student is in, everyone takes ownership in that student's educational needs. In this case, we are able to provide an exemplary education by having all teachers and staff work together to assure all students move toward reaching their highest potential. They believe that as every student succeeds, the entire school and community wins. The whole school body meets every morning in the auditorium for our Community Cub Meeting. During this meeting, the staff and students meet to review the academic and social goals of the school. Accomplishments in reaching goals both academically and socially of both individuals and classes are acknowledged and celebrated, thus creating a positive, nurturing school environment.

Our student's social growth is also a very important part of the Mayfair daily schedule. Positive Behavior Intervention System (PBIS) is very important in improving our school community. We are the Mayfair Tiger Cubs so many of our acronyms and sayings revolve around PAWS and Tiger Sayings. For PBIS purposes, PAWS stands for: Personal Responsibility, Act Respectfully, Winning Attitude, and Safety First. Students are reminded during the morning Community Cub meeting about the expectations for behavior. When students exhibit these behaviors throughout the day, they receive a "Paw" ticket. Each month new incentives are offered. One example is for the month of March. Students can earn 30 tickets to attend the "Mayfair's Geaux Green Parade." Forty tickets earn students admittance to the parade and the choice to wear a green shirt instead of their uniform shirt. Fifty tickets earns students admittance to the parade; wearing of the green shirt; and a shamrock tattoo. The PBIS committee changes rewards monthly so that students will stay interested in earning PAW tickets. All faculty and staff participate in handing out PAW tickets; assisting in monthly events; and holding students accountable for meeting Mayfair's behavior expectations.

Another important part of Mayfair's day is our ancillary classes. Our students are fortunate to learn about music, physical education and health, and French. The music specialist introduces the students to different genres of music, as well as performance skills and note reading. The physical education teacher works on the knowledge, skills, fitness, and attitudes necessary to lead a healthy lifestyle. Students attend French class to learn how to speak, sing and write the language. The students are excited to practice the French language at lunch and in their classroom. Our Librarian instills a love of reading to students through time spent in our Library classes. Instructors collaborate and share their pacing guides with the ancillary instructors so that they can choose standards that support what students are learning in the classroom.

The school day ends at Mayfair Lab with our Cub Club Extended Day. Parents can elect to have the students stay after school for more
individualized time. The students in our Cub Club receive help with their homework and can be tutored if it is needed. On Fridays, the Club members work on craft activities to explore their artistic side. It is a very full day at Mayfair Lab School.
Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

Mayfair Laboratory School first opened in August, 2013. During its first year in existence, the leadership team has worked very hard to develop the programs necessary for an innovative, challenging education for the students. Since the facility had been used as a middle school the previous year, modifications had to be made to the buildings and grounds to make it suitable for an elementary school setting. The Leadership Team networked with the district and visited schools that were scheduled to closed and moved furniture, rugs and even playground equipment to Mayfair Lab. Then Library books and materials were acquired from other schools. This gave our school a foundation to build upon. The parents and teachers volunteered hours of labor to painting and fixing up the classrooms and grounds. The next step was to write grants. Mayfair Lab was awarded the Kinder Morgan Foundation Grant, I Can Read-Debra Rochelle Grant, Junior League of Baton Rouge Grant, Capital Area Medical Society Alliance Grant, and a donation from Walters, Papillion, Thomas, Cullens. The grants and donations were used for musical instruments, Ballet performances, and books.

Once the facilities and materials were in place, the teachers worked very hard to create the best possible learning environment. Attention was given to each individual student to ensure that each student was working up to their highest level of learning. Professional development, data meetings and hard work contributed to Mayfair Lab receiving an "A" grade its very first year! Mayfair is very proud to be on the list with the best schools in the district. Mayfair's faculty will continue to work on being the best of the best.

Mayfair Lab School can be really proud of its very active PTA. The school has many activities that bring together the parents and students to create family-like settings. Muffins for Moms and Donuts for Dads have families sitting down together to enjoy a meal and learn about each other. Parents get to meet other parents and form relationships that are so important at school. The PTA also has afternoon and Saturday play dates in the park and fundraising activities at area restaurants that encourage a close-knit community.

Having this close community is very important to the success of Mayfair. This was evident in our final school-wide activity, Our Mayfair "May Fair", took place on a Saturday in May. It was a celebration of the success of our first year in existence. Attendance included parents and students of this year's class and the new incoming parents of next year's class. In this way, the new parents could start the year feeling welcomed and involved in the school's community. Teachers had exciting booths set up and various activities including line dancing was held. The day was fun and relaxing. It reflected the spirit of pride in our accomplishments and excitement for our future that is so important to Mayfair.

Many changes are anticipated in the next three years at Mayfair. As a Laboratory school, we are already beginning to work towards becoming a training facility for pre- and in-service teachers. We will have student teachers or reading and math education students from LSU in all of our classes starting October, 2014. Even our principal is mentoring future principals. We will continue to serve as a training facility and will work towards becoming a demonstration center for our future and in-service teachers. As years progress, we will need to add faculty and staff that can accept the challenges of teaching in an environment that encourages new teaching techniques and cutting edge strategies for learning.

Because we add a grade level each year, we will face moving from an elementary only school, to one that includes middle school. Much planning will be necessary to accomplish this without disturbing the close knit community that we take pride in maintaining.

To continue creating our innovative educational experience, we need to improve our extra-curricular activities. We would like to add clubs and programs in our school that encourage creative use of learning. Robotics, Chess, music and arts classes that utilize the students' use of classroom learning will be explored. Accordingly, new activities will necessitate more equipment and supplies to allow for maximum learning.

More grants will have to be written to acquire these materials. In keeping with our mentor, University Laboratory School, we will also need to increase our technology in order to teach with cutting edge capabilities. More computers per students will need to be added.

With a vision and mission in mind, Mayfair Laboratory School is well on its way to creating place where the students are flourishing and future
teachers are honing their skills. We intend to be a model educational environment for many years to come.
Additional Information

Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.