

HONORABLE MENTION
EDUCATION DESIGN SHOWCASE + AWARDS

Prototype Schools: West Hialeah Elementary School

Miami-Dade County
Public Schools
Hialeah Gardens, FL

The goal of the "prototype system" is to achieve a high performance school that delivers meaningful civic presence, responds well to varying site conditions, and creates an inviting educational environment for impressionable young minds. This architectural response involves a collection of "proto-parts," creating a village-scale campus organized around a central "Mainstreet" pedestrian environment. The library, an iconic expression of life-long learning, is located on the second floor directly over the entry breezeway, and is a key element in the composition of the school's main entrance. School administration offices are located directly off the breezeway to maximize visual control over those entering and exiting the campus. The interior design of the "cafetorium" accommodates not only the school's lunch activity, but also the special acoustic and lighting requirements of a 400-seat performance venue for staged productions, musical events, and public address. The architectural vocabulary for the campus is based on a "tilt-wall model." This construction model organizes a system of abstract, yet coherent, visual relationships expressed through the use of asymmetric geometric planar wall elements. Techniques for achieving student-oriented scale and proportion for the school include the use of wall plane articulation, fenestration, and the controlled use of bold color. Sustainable design strategies were derived from the California High Performance Schools (CHPS) initiative and the national Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design program (LEED).



M.C. Harry and Associates, Inc.

Development Team

Architectural Firm | M.C. Harry and Associates, Inc.
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Project Information

Chief Administrator	Jaime G. Torrens	Current Enrollment	1,201
Project Completion Date	August 2007	Site size (acres)	7.94
Gross Area (sq. ft.)	126,000	Cost per Student	\$25,018
Per Pupil (sq. ft.)	101.7	Cost per sq. ft.	\$246
Capacity (Students)	1,239	Total Project Cost	\$30,997,838