



2025-2026 Phase One: Executive Summary for Districts_09242025_14:08

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Hardin County Schools
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Description of the District

Describe the district'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 district serves?

Hardin County Schools is a strong district comprised of a talented and diverse student body, award-winning and magnificent staff, extremely supportive parents, and a community that invests its time, talent, and treasure into it each day. Hardin County Schools consists of 23 schools (3 High Schools, 1 Early College & Career Center, 5 Middle Schools, 13 Elementary Schools, and 1 Alternative School, as well as other alternative settings) and is currently the 5th largest district in the state, serving a diverse population of both suburban and rural populations. Our staff is dedicated to the success of our 14,629 students in grades preschool through 12. The district employs 1,113 certified employees and 1,100 classified employees. The Early College & Career Center has provided opportunities for students to expand their knowledge and skillset for transitioning to the real world. The district continues to look for ways to create opportunities for students to accelerate learning as well as provide opportunities for students to be prepared for life, whether that is college or career-oriented.

District Stakeholders

Identify and describe the district's stakeholder groups. How does the district ensure stakeholder involvement and engagement in the improvement planning process?

The superintendent has advisory groups for Certified, Classified, and Students to seek their input on decisions that are made. Currently, as a district we are developing our Portrait of a Learner and have sought out a variety of stakeholders in the community to help HCS develop the expectations of all students. Stakeholders include parents, clergy, business owners, teachers, and students. Work is also done with local universities (Grow Your Own), and cooperatives (Green River Regional Educational Cooperative). For our Federal Programs Grant Applications we also used information from the KARE (Kindness and Respect for Everyone) Committee

District's Purpose

Provide the district's purpose statement and supplementary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs, including the year in which they were last reviewed or revised. Describe how the district embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students and how stakeholders are involved in its development.

Hardin County School's Vision Statement: Schools, Parents, and Community actively involved in "Helping Children Succeed". Hardin County School's Mission Statement: The mission of the Hardin County Schools, in partnership with the family and community is to prepare students to be responsible citizens and lifelong learners in a global society.

Notable Achievements

Describe the district's notable achievements in the last three years.

- East Hardin Middle School was named a Spotlight School by the New Tech Network (NTN). NTN, a national

East Hardin engaged in collaborative reflection and identified the strategies that ensure all students regularly engage in authentic, complex thinking and problem-solving while also experiencing a safe and inclusive learning environment. EHMS implements detailed strategies for ongoing teacher development and how that translates to a meaningful classroom experience for students.

- The Kentucky Department of Education announced that John Hardin High School is among the only 3

Now in its sixth year, the recognition honors public high schools that excel at preparing students to enroll and succeed in college, as determined by available data in each state.

"We appreciate this recognition," John Hardin High School principal Mark Wells said. It is great to see JHHS staff and students receive recognition for their hard work. I'm tremendously proud of everyone in the Bulldog family. Our staff and students work hard to reach success even after their time at JHHS is complete. This validates that our strategies are working and that John Hardin High School is a great place to learn, grow and prepare for life after graduation."

- Hardin County Schools opened its Early Learning Academy North Campus located in Radcliff, Kentucky

The Early Learning Academy is a childcare center to support the employees of Hardin County Schools and full-time students at Elizabethtown Community and Technical College. Hardin County residents may remember that the building formerly served as the North Hardin Branch of the Hardin County Public Library.

- Hardin County Schools classrooms are brighter and use less energy through a dynamic collaboration v

The district installed new geothermal HVAC systems at Lakewood and New Highland Elementary Schools, as well as LED light fixtures in 16 of its facilities (13 school buildings) and solar panels on the roofs of 12 facilities (11 school buildings). The lighting upgrade ensures that all buildings now have LED lights.

HCS is expected to achieve the following with the LED lights:

- save more than 2.5 million kWh per year
- same nearly 10,000 kW of billed electric demand per year

-
- save nearly 1,300 therms of natural gas per year
 - save more than \$280,000 per year

The solar fixtures will create energy that is:

- equivalent to 631 kW
- equivalent to the electricity 99 homes would use each year
- more than the energy it would take to charge 33 million smartphones
- equivalent to 508 metric tons of carbon reduced from the atmosphere
- equivalent to more than 56,000 gallons of gasoline.

The total HCS energy savings initiatives project will equal:

- \$280,000 + in annual energy costs
- a reduced environmental carbon footprint of approximately 900 metric tons

The solar panels will create nearly \$71,000 per year in guaranteed savings for the school district.

- Hardin County Schools, Elizabethtown Independent Schools, the Elizabethtown Police Department, the

“Ensuring the safety of students and staff is our highest priority,” HCS Superintendent Teresa Morgan said. “Mr. Mullins and I thought it was important to remind stakeholders that our collaboration with our law enforcement partners is strong and we will take all necessary steps to keep everyone safe.”

The video includes Mrs. Morgan, EIS Superintendent Paul Mullins, Elizabethtown Police Chief Jeremy Thompson, Hardin County Sheriff John Ward, Hardin County Attorney Jenny Oldham, Radcliff Police Chief Jeff Cross and Vine Grove Police Lt. Greg McNeil. It was produced by Hardin County Educational & Community Television (HCEC-TV), a division of Hardin County Schools.

It can be viewed on YouTube at <https://bit.ly/hcseissafetyvideo202425>.

- Five Hardin County Schools Family Resource and Youth Services Centers have been recognized in the

The Division of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers received 887 submissions from FRYSC centers across Kentucky and only 79 were selected for the Spotlight.

The Family Resource Centers at Creekside Elementary School, GC Burkhead Elementary School and Meadow View Elementary School received recognition. The Youth Services Centers at North Middle School and North Hardin High School also earned a position in the spotlight.

The submissions highlighted successful initiatives organized and completed by the schools' FRYSC coordinators. Procedures to improve student daily attendance at Meadow View, North Middle and Creekside were highlighted. The FRYSC Impact Report Spotlight also took note of the work that GC Burkhead has done with mentoring & dental health and mental health counseling services initiated by North Hardin.

- All Hardin County Schools have earned the Purple Star Award, an award that stems from the Department of Education.

"Every school in our district is now a recipient of the treasured Purple Star Award," HCS Superintendent Teresa Morgan said. "The United States Armed Forces are our country's most treasured assets. Our school district has tremendous respect and appreciation for our military. Those who defend our country deserve to ensure their children receive tremendous support. The Purple Star Award recognizes our staff's dedication to every student and every family. This takes place across the district and we truly appreciate the hard work our HCS family does each day."

- Central Hardin High School Special Education Teacher Sarah Dakin received the Western Kentucky University Distinguished Educator Award.

The WKU Distinguished Educator Awards are designed to celebrate current Kentucky educators in the WKU service region who are making significant contributions to the teaching profession.

"Ms. Dakin does a great job of encouraging students while maintaining extraordinarily high expectations," CHHS Principal Tim Isaacs said. "She knows what her students are capable of and she refuses to allow less. However, students know that she is going to take the journey with them and she is going to help them if they stumble."

- Hardin County Schools and Elizabethtown Independent Schools presented "Mother Goose on the Loose" to students.

Shortly after the beginning of each school year, Kindergarten teachers perform assessments to determine each student's academic strengths and areas for focus. Recent data from these tests, the Brigance Assessments, indicates that fewer students are coming to school with "phonological awareness."

Phonological Awareness is the ability to hear, identify and manipulate the sounds in spoken language, encompassing various levels like word awareness, syllable awareness, rhyme and rhythm. It is a crucial foundation for literacy, helping children learn to read and spell.

"We talk with our educational colleagues often," North Park Elementary School Principal Laura Beth Hayes said. "It's a societal challenge. And, we hope this cooperative project will help students who live anywhere in Hardin County."

- Hardin County Schools has another tool to communicate with students, parents, staff and the community.

"This is another way for our families, staff and community to stay in touch with our amazing school district," HCS Superintendent Teresa Morgan said. "Users will receive immediate notices regarding district-wide news and announcements. They also can subscribe to receive announcements from their school. We will continue to

send phone calls and texts as well as information on our websites and social media outlets.”

Areas of Improvement

Describe areas for improvement that the district is striving to achieve in the next three years.

We are still in the process of developing and refining our Portrait of a Learner. The Portrait of a Learner is a collection of insights from HCS administration, staff, parents and community leaders that produced five competencies for student learning. In the fall of 2023, HCS asked parents and staff to assemble and help guide the work in partnership with the University of Kentucky Center for Next Generation Leadership.

After several meetings and refinement by HCS staff, several teachers "piloted" POL in the 2024-25 school year. The teachers used the HCS POL language and systems for feedback and refinement. School and district-wide integration will start in the 2025-26 school year in phases

Students in every classroom and every school will strongly focus on the HCS POL competencies in the 2025-26 school year. This will be our first year to hear defenses at the 5th and 8th grade level. As we continue to develop and implement our plan, Seniors will do defenses of learning in 2026-2027

COMMENTS

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Additional Information

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

N/A

Attachment Summary

Attachment Name	Description	Associated Item(s)
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