



## 2025-2026 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools\_09292025\_09:33

2025-2026 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools

**John Hardin High School**  
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### 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?

John Hardin High School is one of six high schools serving the students of Hardin County and is located between the towns of Elizabethtown and Radcliff, KY. With a diverse population of appx. 900 students, John Hardin students come from both rural and urban backgrounds. There are appx. 53% of students receiving free or reduced meals and 9% of our students have a disability. The military greatly influences our student population, as many families we serve are active or retired military or support personnel at the military installation on Fort Knox. This presents challenges associated with a transient population. Also, the county is also expected to see a growth of 4,000 families due to a new factory opening in the county by 2026, so we are seeing new students move into the area and enroll in JHHS. Currently, we have 44% minority population made up of African American (17%), Hispanic (13%), Asian (3%), Pacific Islander (1%), and Two or More Races (10%). The John Hardin faculty is comprised of 53 certified teachers, 4 administrators, and 2 counselors.

### School Stakeholders

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

The stakeholders for JHHS include the students, their parents/guardians, JHHS faculty and staff, health professionals, social service workers, local law enforcement, local business owners, neighbors, and community members. Several times a year, the students and their parents/guardians are able to fill out different surveys to voice their praise and/or concerns for the school. Also, JHHS is able to survey our faculty and staff for reflections and new ideas. We also offer several nights a year when families are able to volunteer or partner with staff members for events. Some of these are educational opportunities for parents to learn how to better support their child. In addition to surveys and various volunteer opportunities, the Site Based Decision Making Council is comprised of teachers, guardians, and administrators to make decisions within the school. Outside of connected family members, JHHS participates in several community meetings each month-- Chamber of Commerce, Lion Club, Rotary, etc. We also attend meetings about the growing community and how to meet the needs of our community alongside leadership from other high schools, school districts, colleges, and industry. Lastly, we are starting an Alumni Association this year to create a community of alumni to help us fulfill needs that our current students may face upon graduation.

### School's Purpose

Provide the school'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 school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students and how stakeholders are involved in its development.

The mission of John Hardin High School is to educate students, in cooperation with families and the community, to have the knowledge, skills, and attitude necessary to achieve their potential as socially responsible, life-long learners in a diverse and changing society. Our school motto, "Family, Respect, Success" has been adopted by the entire student body as well as the faculty and staff. The strength of our faculty ensures that content is taught to all students with rigor and relevance. Our students' determination to succeed allows them to rise to the challenges set forth by the faculty. The success of our students generates a sense of pride that they take with them into the community and beyond where they become productive members of society. We do all of this by taking care of each other as a family.

Four years ago, we also added a motto to be "Above the Line," meaning to excel in whatever we do. Both our students and staff have really bought into this. For example, you can hear students in the hallway tell each other to be above the line by picking up a candy wrapper off the floor or getting to class early. This phrase simply means to do whatever you do better than average and with a positive attitude.

### Notable Achievements

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

John Hardin continues to make strides in both academics and extra curricular activities. During the previous seven years of standardized assessment and school accountability, the school scored at the Distinguished level and was also a high performing school. We continue to see growth in CERT and I-Ready numbers leading to ACT score improvement post-pandemic. For the second year in a row, we earned the top spot of high schools in our district from the U.S. News and World Report's Top High Schools and we are also ranked in the top 35% of all high schools in the state of Kentucky. Last year, we had three students accepted into the Gatton Academy and one student selected for the Craft Academy. Both of these accomplishments provide enriching experiences that challenge our top students academically. In addition, we had one junior named as a National Merit Semi-Finalist.

Our students continually win awards at the local, state, and national level in areas such as DECA, BETA, FCCLA, FFA, JROTC, Vex Robotics, Governor's Scholar Program, and Governor's School for the Arts. John Hardin has also achieved awards at the local, regional, and state level in several athletic events. We are also continuing with our new JHHS Athletic Hall of Fame to celebrate accomplishments and strengthen alumni ties.

### Areas of Improvement

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

Areas of school improvement focus on student success in multiple domains.

Improve student attendance by fostering a positive and trustworthy school culture and by involving support systems to address barriers to regular attendance.

Reading and math scores will be boosted through targeted instructional programs.

College and career readiness is already a recognized focus, supported by SAT prep, career ready programs, and expanding co-op opportunities.

### Additional Information

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

The doors opened at JHHS 25 years ago, and we are proud to currently have seven faculty/staff members working in the building who are former students. These alumni members graduated from JHHS, went on to receive their college education, and returned to us to serve in various roles in the building. We believe this shows that John Hardin High School is a place people want to be and people have a desire to give back to the community that helped shape them.

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# Attachment Summary

Attachment Name	Description	Associated Item(s)
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