



Executive Summary

Nelson County

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Introduction

Every school system has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school system makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school system 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 system, and the kinds of programs and services that a school system implements to support student learning.

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

Description of the School System

Describe the school system'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 system serves?

The Nelson County School District is a system on the move. Encompassing nearly 423 square miles, the district serves nearly 5,000 children in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade and is comprised of eleven schools on eight campuses throughout Nelson County. The district is in the process of renovating and expanding Nelson County Early Learning Center Facility along with the construction of an auditorium at Thomas Nelson High School. The technology department has worked to increase bandwidth from 45 to 500 and upgraded the wireless infrastructure at Nelson County High School. Our schools continue to purchase technology and to upgrade existing systems and workstations with portable technology.. Districtwide Google Apps For Education has been implemented at all levels K - 12.

The Nelson County Schools are also developing and perfecting educational practices that place the instructional needs of ALL children at the core. The district believes in placing the needs of children first and is working hard to expand this focus with a vision that places professionalism, technology, communications and excellence as the foundation of our mission, vision and belief system districtwide. The Nelson County Schools are working to create a culture that adheres to consistent enforcement of high expectations for all and believes academic excellence and growth should be recognized and celebrated for students and staff. For the 2014-15 assessment cycle our KPREP data revealed the following: The Nelson County School District is Proficient, Boston Elementary School is Distinguished, Bloomfield Elementary is Proficient, Boston Middle School is a School of Distinction and Distinguished, Bloomfield Middle School is Proficient, Nelson County High School is Distinguished and Thomas Nelson High School is a School of Distinction and Distinguished. In support of student success, the system's operational and support staff, administrators and teachers, are urged to collaborate within and across groups to ensure the highest quality of work through content cadre, weekly PLC meetings and professional learning. The faculty and staff work to ensure academic excellence through the delivery of high quality, rigorous, and differentiated instruction. The school system is intent on providing professional growth opportunities to support this excellence through on-going job embedded professional learning for all certified and classified staff across the district. Technology is used to engage in high levels of student learning. Our district seeks to maximize resources while creating a 21st century learning environment that equips students with skills needed for success at college and in a career. The Nelson County School District has made a major commitment to technology by expanding the wireless internet band width, Chrome books and various instructional computer programs. The district believes communication is a critical component for student success. The district strives to provide consistent and regular communication at all levels through various means of delivery including video clips and social media. The district vision includes the belief that optimal learning can happen for each child through adherence to the values of fairness, individualized learning, high expectations, respect and professional growth. Through the use of web-based technologies, parents can now monitor their students' grades in real-time and have a direct line of communication with teachers.

Nelson County School District and the Nelson County Area Technology Center coordinate their programs and work closely to prepare students to be college and career ready. The school district offers job exploration opportunities in the elementary and middle schools and on-the-job training, mentoring and job shadowing at the high school level. The high schools also now offer opportunities for post secondary educational experiences in collaboration with Western KY University for dual credit coursework in math, English, science and social studies. With more than 300 support personnel and 350 certified teachers and staff, a majority of whom hold a master's degree or higher, the personnel of the Nelson County School District strives to provide an atmosphere where we Expect the Best of everyone everyday.

System's Purpose

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

Mission

The Nelson County School District, in partnership with the community, will provide diverse and individualized instructional services to inspire, enable and prepare all students to be responsible, successful members of the competitive global society.

Vision

Student Focus: Students come first in ALL Nelson County Schools. We create a nurturing culture for ALL students through consistent enforcement of high expectations. Teaching and Learning for ALL is an exciting process in which academic excellence and growth are recognized and celebrated for our students and staff.

Professionalism: In support of student success, our operational and support staff, administrators and teachers collaborate within and across groups to ensure the highest quality of work of all stakeholders. The faculty and staff ensure academic excellence through the delivery of high quality, rigorous and differentiated instruction. Job embedded professional growth is provided to support all instructional staff in their daily practice. The district leadership implements and supports rigorous accountability measures to ensure academic excellence and effective stewardship of resources.

Technology: Nelson County Schools staff understands the role of technology in our schools and culture. We prescribe and utilize our technology resources to engage students at their highest levels of learning. We maximize our resources while creating a 21st century environment and equipping our students with the knowledge, skills and dispositions to be successful in our world economy. Technology is used for accommodating each student's needs, ranging from technical to college bound.

Communication: Communication is a critical component in the success of our students. There is consistent and regular communication at all levels. Regular and frequent contact is made with parents regarding individual student success and needs. We listen closely, respond quickly and speak clearly, showing respect for all.

Excellence: Through the values of fairness, individualized learning, high expectations, respect and professional growth, optimal learning happens for each child. Students, teachers, parents and community members recognize the Nelson County Schools for academic excellence.

Together our faculty, staff, students, and families Expect the Best.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

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

K-PREP test results released this fall by the Kentucky Department of Education were very promising for the Nelson County School District. Nelson County has improved from the 78th percentile to the 84th percentile in the state. These results give Nelson County Schools a Proficient and Progressing designation in the state rankings.

Boston School reached Distinguished status at both the elementary and middle school levels among the high performing schools in Kentucky. Additionally, Boston Middle School is designated as a School of Distinction.

Nelson County High School and Thomas Nelson High School received Distinguished rating as well, on the 2014-15 K-Prep assessment and Thomas Nelson High School received the honor of School of Distinction. Bloomfield Elementary and Bloomfield Middle Schools are recognized as Proficient schools. As a whole, the Nelson County School System performed as well or better in comparison with regional peers while earning all the top local rankings among middle and high schools. The results place Nelson County in the Proficient range for state school districts.

Our students continue to be recognized for their achievements in the classroom and in extracurricular activities.

Nelson County girls basketball was the 2015 runner up in the fifth region. NCHS Girls and Boys Cross Country teams went to state competition. NC Girls softball advanced to the region. This year Nelson County High School inducted sixty-five members into their Athletic Hall of Fame. Middle school and high school students competed at the state and national level in FFA competition. Nelson County High School and Thomas Nelson FFA chapters received the three star rating. The Nelson County ROTC program received Distinguished rating for its 10th consecutive year. To date the ROTC program has completed 2,790 hours of service to the community. Thomas Nelson High School golf team was recognized as 2015 District Champions and the TNHS KYA club received outstanding delegation and delegate honors. As you can see, Nelson County Schools continues to promote extracurricular opportunities through Student Technology Club, BETA, Key Club, HOSA and various student led organizations within our schools. Nelson County Public Schools believes in the importance of nurturing the whole child and will continue to seek opportunities to expand in this area as we Expect the Best.

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 Nelson County school district welcomes all parents to become involved in the process of educating our young people. From providing a home environment that encourages learning, to collaboration with our staff, to volunteering your time or resources, we encourage each and every stakeholder in our community to become a part of the education process in the Nelson County School System. We consistently promote and communicate with ALL stakeholders through various means including social media and video clips. Contact your local school today to partner with us and always Expect the Best.