CDIP Description of the DS School District:

The Dawson Springs Independent School District (DSISD) is located in western Kentucky in the southwest tip of Hopkins County in the town of Dawson Springs. The town borders both Christian and Caldwell County. The DSISD was created in 1913 and continues a strong history of success. Our mission statement, which is in the final stages of being vetted, is: The mission of the DSISD is to educate, equip, and empower every student to be transition ready, college and/or career ready, and life ready. Our motto, which is also in the final stages of vetting is: A Tradition of Success.

The high expectations of our community, faculty, staff, and students have never wavered and our academic success has historically been exceptional in many areas. Our DSISD proudly acknowledges a “top shelf” volunteer program which helps students and staff alike in numerous areas annually. Our DSISD also has a Dawson Springs Educational Foundation which is made up of volunteers and alumni who help raise funds and distributes scholarships annually. Madisonville Community College is our closest regional postsecondary higher learning institution. One challenge our district faces is that our district boundaries are set and cannot be modified or extended without legal interventions.

Our current school district enrollment is 556 students K-12 which is down over 100 students in about the last four years. One major challenge for our town and school district is that there are no major employers within 20 to 30 minutes of us. The decreased enrollment and lack of jobs locally continue to make things very “tight” financially. The majority of our school population is primarily caucasian and many of our students/families are economically challenged as we have a free/reduced lunch rate in the upper 70% range.

We are striving to meet the needs represented with the socioeconomic challenges that we have present within the district. Our school district has strategically started focused professional development based around the goals of continuous student improvement and growth.