



2021-22 Phase Three: Executive Summary for Districts_11112021_08:51

2021-22 Phase Three: Executive Summary for Districts

Hardin County Schools
Teresa Thompson Morgan
65 W.a. Jenkins Rd
Elizabethtown, Kentucky, 42701
United States of America

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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 14,111 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's Purpose

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

Vision: Schools, Parents, and Community actively involved in "Helping Children Succeed". Mission: 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 and Areas of Improvement

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

COVID-19 certainly had its effect on Hardin County Schools. However, the district worked hard, kept its resolve, and continued to provide quality instruction to all students. The district transitioned to online instruction in March 2020 for the rest of the 2019-20 school year. The 2020-21 school year started on an "A/B" schedule

(students were either in Group A or Group according to their last name) and attended in-person classes two days one week and three days the next. A district Online Learning Academy was also offered that provided a standards-based curriculum with instruction provided by district staff. Students that had been on the A/B schedule started attending school five days per week in March 2021 as the county's positivity rate waned. The 2021-22 school year started with all students attending five-day-a-week instruction with the exception of about 100 students receiving instruction in a virtual academy. Here are some other notable achievements from late 2020 to late 2021: Central Hardin High School Class of 2021 seniors Keegan Christensen and Anna Turlington were semifinalists for the 2021 class of the Coca-Cola Scholars Program. A joint effort of Coca-Cola bottlers across the country and The Coca-Cola Company, the Coca-Cola Scholars Program is the largest corporate-sponsored, achievement-based scholarship program in the United States. CHHS Class of 2022 seniors Sam Christensen, Tate Lewis, Andy McDowell and Nathan Turlington each earned a perfect score - on the American College Test (ACT). That is a composite of the four subject area scores - English, Math, Reading and Science. Each section is also scored on a 1-36 scale. Less than one percent (0.334%) of all test takers earn a perfect ACT score. HCS offered first and second-dose COVID-19 vaccination opportunities in February and March 2021 at one of its former elementary school sites. HCS participated in a state-wide initiative reminding the public of the significant roles that Kentucky public schools play in our state's success. The Kentucky Association of Educational Cooperatives, Kentucky Association of School Administrators, Kentucky Association of School Superintendents and Kentucky School Boards Association are launching a collaborative effort to highlight the effort of Kentucky's 171 public school districts. It was called #TellingOurStoryKY. Several "little libraries" opened around the district. These are small enclosed bookcases outside of several schools that allowed children and families to borrow books at any time. Te'Andra Parker, an eighth-grade social studies teacher at North Middle School, was named the Kentucky winner in the National Citizenship Education Teachers Award Program from the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States. She was nominated for and earned the local award from VFW Post #102815 in Vine Grove, Kentucky. That made her eligible for the state award. Five HCS facilities earned "Energy Star Certification" status from Harshaw Trane, a company that provides building automated controls that give businesses, industries and schools the ability to monitor energy management. Energy Star schools are buildings that have cut energy usage by no less than 35% as compared to other similar facilities. The consumption of less energy means more dollars are returned to the district, there is an increase in savings from operations and maintenance costs, there is a reduced reliability risk and there are lower emissions. Those schools are Cecilia Valley Elementary School, Creekside Elementary School, GC Burkhead Elementary School, Meadow View Elementary

School and Vine Grove Elementary School. The district offered opportunities for children 18-years-of-age and under to obtain a free lunch on weekdays over the summer. The annual Summer Feeding Program had eight mobile pickup sites (the HCS Cruisin' Café) and three stationary sites. Family Resource and Youth Services Centers worked together to provide Back to School Festivals (or "Fests") at the three HCS high schools in July 2021. These Back to School Fests provided an opportunity for families to have fun and learn about many community partnerships in one place on one night. These evenings were in addition to the traditional open houses that were held at each school. The Hardin County Board of Education unanimously approved a 3% employee pay raise in June 2021. "The Board truly understands and realizes that each of our HCS family members sacrifices so much for student success," Hardin County Schools Superintendent Teresa Morgan said. The Board also approved a two-dollar-per-hour pay raise for bus drivers. It also took action to approve a \$50 increase in the daily pay of a substitute teacher. Hardin County Schools started using the i-Ready Assessment diagnostic from Curriculum Associates to assess its student's instructional progress throughout the school year. The district formerly used the MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) assessment but has transitioned to i-Ready. As its website states, "the i-Ready Assessment empowers teachers with a deeper knowledge of their students' needs. Based on industry-leading research ... sophisticated data is transformed into meaningful, actionable insights that make differentiating instruction a reality for teachers." Moody's Investor Service updated the Hardin County Schools credit rating to Aa2. An Aa2 rating is deemed exceptionally high and is given to "high-quality" institutions with very low credit risk. Moody's credits institutions with an Aa2 rating or above as having a "healthy and stable financial position." As a result of the financial stability and sound planning, the district had substantial financial savings. Chip Sutherland, a managing director of Baird (the Board's financial management firm), notified the Board that the recent refinancing of an older bond saved more than \$1.8 million for the district. These savings and credit rating are paramount as the Board begins a renovation at Central Hardin High School. "Hardin County Schools is very financially sound," Sutherland said. "The Board, Superintendent Teresa Morgan, and Chief Operations Officer John Stith are terrific stewards of the taxpayer's money. The financial moves they make always put savings back into the district. They also create opportunities to invest in the many future generations of students that will learn, grow and succeed in Hardin County Schools. The Central Hardin High School project is truly a result of the Board's dedication." The Hardin County Board of Education voted unanimously to appoint Sherry Barnes of Radcliff, Kentucky to fill a vacant seat on the Board. "I am grateful for this opportunity to serve on the Hardin County Board of Education," Ms. Barnes said. "We can invest in the future by giving our students the knowledge and skills to achieve their short- and long-term goals. I'm excited and ready to work." Ms. Barnes fills the seat that represents Board of

Education Division I. Mr. Mark Casey resigned from that seat in July 2021. In its efforts to provide an opportunity for students to safely remain in school, Hardin County Schools is adding an additional - voluntary - mitigation strategy called Test to Stay. Students who are identified as a direct contact of a positive case of COVID-19 will now have the option of being tested to stay in school. Students and staff may be tested for five days with the Test to Stay initiative. Students may return to school on day eight with no test needed. The district was awarded a \$750,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA). The grant provides Hardin County Schools with college and career-ready resources necessary to successfully expand HCS STEM programming. "We are extremely thankful to DoDEA for selecting our schools for this grant," HCS Superintendent Teresa Morgan said. "The armed forces make a tremendous daily impact on our schools and community. This investment from DoDEA ensures that it believes in our mission and wants to increase high-quality instructional strategies in our district's internationally acclaimed STEM pathways." HCS will use the funds to provide training and materials for Problem Based Learning at Meadow View Elementary School, Woodland Elementary School, North Middle School and James T. Alton Middle School. John Hardin High School FFA won \$10,000 for their school at the Altec Innovation Challenge. Their project, Aquafood, focuses on expanding the hydroponic food project that the school has had for the past three years. The Altec Challenge is meant to encourage local students to solve real-world problems in an innovative way, while also benefiting the winning school. With the \$10,000, the next step is to construct tanks to fulfill the idea. The students looked at the scope of food insecurity in the community and understood that protein needed to be a part of it. The group hopes to be able to donate to local non-profits including Warm Blessings Community Kitchen.

Additional Information

Districts Supporting CSI/TSI (including ATSI) Schools Only: Describe the procedures for monitoring and providing support for (a) CSI/TSI school(s) so as to ensure the successful implementation of the school improvement plan.

NA

Additional Information

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

NA

Attachment Summary

Attachment Name	Description	Associated Item(s)
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