



2023-2024 Phase One: Executive Summary for
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2023-2024 Phase One: Executive Summary for Districts

Allen County
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2023-2024 Phase One: Executive Summary for Districts

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?

Allen County School District is located in Scottsville, Kentucky. Between 2019 and 2020 the population of Allen County, KY grew from 20,944 to 21,065, a 0.578% increase and its median household income grew from \$44,036 to \$44,180, a 0.327% increase with a state average of \$52,238. According to recent census data, 1.36% of Allen County residents were born outside of the country. There are 44.4 times more White (Non-Hispanic) residents in Allen County, KY than any other race or ethnicity. 17.9% of the population live in poverty, a number that is higher than the national average of 12.8%. According to the data, employment in Allen County, KY grew at a rate of 1.37%, from 8.74k employees to 8.86k employees. The most common job groups, by number of people living in Allen County, KY, are Office & Administrative Support Occupations, Production Occupations, and Management Occupations. The Allen County School District includes five schools serving approximately 3,000 students. Allen County Primary Center serves our preschool students through the third grade. Allen County Intermediate Center serves fourth through sixth-grade students. James E. Bazzell Middle School serves seventh and eighth grade. Allen County-Scottsville High School serves ninth through twelfth grade. Patriot Academy is an A-5 Alternative School for middle and high school students. Allen County-Scottsville High School also includes a Career and Technical Center that offers multiple career pathways. The High School also targets multiple student interests outside of course work with over 24 club offerings and a variety of athletic programs.

In the last five years, the district has hired a new superintendent, chief academic officer, instructional supervisor, reading and math coaches as well as retirements and new job opportunities that led to all newly hired principals in each building. This leadership change has allowed the district to focus on community collaboration to develop a clear vision and identify core values, defining a clear mission and instructional model for long-term opportunities yielding student and community impact. After developing the graduate profile that identifies competencies that transcend all subjects and grade levels, our teachers are focused on designing for deeper learning experiences. The district partnered with PBLworks to provide professional learning for teachers, district and school leaders to design quality instruction with a foundation of standards-based units and gold standard PBL design. Our current system only measures a small slice of what students know and are able to do. It doesn't measure communication, collaboration, resilient learners, creative problem-solving, and engaged global citizens. These competencies commonly came up as being most important in our district/community which led to their inclusion in the Profile of a Patriot and now PBL

creates the classroom conditions for students to gain instruction and opportunities to demonstrate mastery toward the competencies.

Eighty percent of our teachers were trained in Gold Standard PBL in the summer of 2023. Each building leader is engaging in leadership training to enable the conditions for quality PBL instruction within their building. The district provides ongoing support for PBL implementation to help deeply shift the student classroom experiences over the upcoming years. This includes in-district support structures as well as PBLWorks coaching and training. A challenge is to determine the best method for community engagement within this work. Each school holds exhibitions each year and the engagement is high from stakeholders. The district would like to engage more in terms of mentorships and accessing the resources within the community for greater student impact, including the variety of expertise in the area and industry apprenticeship opportunities. Our community is eager to help develop the youth within this community and our challenge is to leverage this desire using the most effective entry points.


District Stakeholders


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

Allen County Schools engaged in a co-creation process with community members, district staff, students, parents and a variety of stakeholders to establish a vision, mission and core values during a strategic visioning process. Listening tours, book studies, a visioning team process and more took place over a multi-year process to determine a clear direction for Allen County Schools. The district was seeking to identify the knowledge, skills and dispositions students need to be successful. This led to the Profile of a Patriot. All classrooms are now working toward aligning instruction to these competencies and Profile of a Patriot is familiar for all staff, students and throughout the community. All stakeholders are invited to join the multiple exhibition opportunities throughout the year and view student reflections on their growth toward the Profile of a Patriot competencies. Stakeholders can view student projects and learn more about the instructional design that aligns with our district vision during these events. The district will have a digital dashboard with live data showcasing student mastery rates toward the Profile of a Patriot competencies. It provides an opportunity for transparency toward the visioning work and desired student outcomes.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment Name

 Exhibition Night

 Profile of a Patriot

District's Purpose

Provide the district's purpose statement and ancillary 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.

As noted in the previous section, Allen County Schools engaged in a co-creation process with community members, district staff, students, parents and a variety of stakeholders to establish a vision, mission and core values during a strategic visioning process. Listening tours, book studies, a visioning team process and more took place over a multi-year process to determine a clear direction for Allen County Schools. These were last revised in 2022.

Vision - Our vision is to graduate engaged, resilient citizens who pursue their passions, maximize their strengths, contribute to their community, and achieve meaningful purpose in life.

Mission - Our mission is to nurture, inspire, and empower the next generation to be successful contributors in an ever-changing world to create a better future for all by providing joyful, authentic, meaningful learning experiences and instilling hope.

Core Values - We value the pursuit of excellence, always striving to exceed expectations through goal setting, productive struggle, reflecting, and improving. We value dignity and believe that it is our responsibility to honor the humanity in each unique individual, their strengths, their interests and to create a sense of self-worth for all.

We embody these as not only documents for shared language but we use them as a filter through which we make decisions, design lessons and reference the work we do as a parallel to this work. For example, our instructional practices did not align to our mission and vision beforehand. We have worked on professional learning and implementation around project-based learning as one instructional methodology that aligns with the vision. A strategic plan was in place to elevate this work and build sustainable practices. We continue to embody the work of the mission, vision, values and beliefs by application throughout our district's daily operations.


Program offerings also align to the shared vision. Allen County recognizes the varied gifts and passions our students have and the unique contributions to their community. Each school offers a variety of courses, clubs and extracurriculars. For example, Allen County Schools believes students can find postsecondary success through a variety of continued education opportunities and workforce experiences. In addition to core classes, Allen County-Scottsville High School offers a variety of Career and Technical courses including welding, industrial maintenance, automotive repair, health sciences, small engine repair, broadcasting and more. Classrooms across the district are designing for a variety of authentic experiences. All

stakeholders are invited to attend school exhibitions to showcase their learning and provide student feedback aligned to the Profile of a Patriot.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment Name

 District Vision, Mission and Core Values

 Exhibition Night

 PBL Testimonials

 Profile of a Patriot

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.

Allen County Schools have made great gains in supporting the whole child; both by designing quality instruction and meeting the variety of students' physical, social, and emotional needs.

1. Project-based learning has been a powerful model of instruction for students. Allen County was one of two districts in the state to receive a PBLWorks district partnership. Because of the ongoing training for district & school leaders and teachers, students are engaged in meaningful work and teachers are expressing greater levels of enjoyment and student engagement.
2. In addition to project-based learning, the creation of the Profile of a Patriot has been elevated from the PBL classwork. Students are learning and demonstrating more than standards alone, but also the needed life skills that transcends subjects and grade levels.
3. Exhibitions have taken off at each school. Students are reflecting on their project experiences and growth toward the Profile competencies while stakeholders fill the schools. Often times a parking spot is difficult to find as community engagement has dramatically increased.
4. Mental health therapists are in each school building as social and emotional support is a priority throughout the district. In addition to the new staff members, schools have prioritized explicit SEL curricula.
5. Collaboration is an essential part of classrooms across the district. Teachers have been trained in Kagan strategies, Adaptive schools and Project-based learning which all provide structures for student collaboration. Classroom layouts have

shifted with desks moving from rows to teams. In addition to student collaboration, teacher collaboration has also increased and school-to-school collaboration efforts have increased as teachers want to collaborate with other teachers across the district.

Within the next three years, the district will continue offering personalized professional development and continue the focus on educating the whole child. Specifically, providing student feedback on the learner profile competencies using high-quality assessments and performance tasks will be an area for improvement. We will continue offering support around project-based learning as teachers will move into refining their skills.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment Name







PBL Testimonials

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)
 District Vision, Mission and Core Values	The attached document is our District's Mission, Vision and Core Values.	•
 Exhibition Night		• •
 PBL Testimonials	Testimonials are attached to express classroom shifts from PBL.	• •
 Profile of a Patriot	The co-created list of competencies for success is the Profile of a Patriot.	• •