



## 2024-2025 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools\_09302024\_15:02

2024-2025 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools

**West Hardin Middle School**

**Christin Swords**

10471 Leitchfield Road  
Cecilia, Kentucky, 42724  
United States of America

---

**Table of Contents**

2024-2025 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools 3

## 2024-2025 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools

### 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?

West Hardin Middle School is located in Stephensburg, KY, approximately 11 miles southwest of Elizabethtown. Our school population, approximately 475 students, draws from the largest geographic region in the district and includes both rural farming communities and portions of the Elizabethtown city limits. Our community consists of our school, an elementary school, a drive-in diner and a volunteer fire department. There are several small churches in the community as well. However, our school district encompasses several other communities including White Mills, Big Clifty, Eastview, as well as parts of Cecilia, Glendale, and Elizabethtown. Dating back to the 1950s, our building has served the district as Stephensburg Elementary and West Hardin High School. We now serve grades 6-8 with 38 certified staff members and 20 classified staff members. Our school population has fluctuated over the past few years, going from 560's to almost 620 in 2019 and now 475 in 2024. We anticipate an increase in enrollment as Ford has finalized plans to build a battery plant nearby and as we move into our new building in about 2 years.

### School Stakeholders

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

Parents and guardians are essential stakeholders who have a vested interest in their children's education and well-being. Our Parent-Teacher-Student Associations (PTSAs) or parent councils will provide input and engage in school decisions. Surveys and feedback forms to gather parent/guardian opinions on school improvements will also be utilized as well as workshops and informational sessions to ensure all stakeholders are informed about school initiatives. Students are key stakeholders as they are directly affected by the quality of education and school environment. Their perspective will be heard through student council and Laker Connect groups. Data from student surveys which gather feedback on various aspects of school life are also utilized in the improvement planning process. Teachers and staff members are integral to the daily operations and educational outcomes of the school. Their involvement in the improvement planning process will take place through faculty meetings, committees, Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and professional development. Finally, community members and organizations often have a vested interest in the success of the school and its students. Through partnerships with local businesses and organizations for resources and support we will ensure their input in our improvement planning process.

## School's Purpose

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

West Hardin Middle School will empower and inspire all students to apply the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to be problem solvers, achieve personal success, and contribute responsibly to their communities. We believe all students have the ability, right, and responsibility to learn and achieve their own individual successes. We believe in recognizing and accepting the differences and challenges in each student's abilities, background, and family structure. We believe in partnerships among students, families, the community, and our staff to promote student skills and work ethic necessary to be productive members of society.

## Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

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

The 23-24 school year was a success and we plan to build upon that for this upcoming year.

West Hardin has really focused on IReady growth and achievement due to a fairly new state assessment system. The IReady diagnostic is given three times a year. West Hardin maintained above state averages in both math and reading for the percentage of students testing on or above grade level.

In the past two years, we've had students win the prestigious Kentucky Ag and Environment in the Classroom essay contest, as well as the NAACP essay contest and the Preparing for Success scholarship. Our staff has also earned recognition for their efforts, with several teachers winning the Nolin RECC Lighthouse Grant, enabling them to enhance classroom instruction and student engagement. On the academic front, 53 students participated in and successfully completed advanced math courses. Additionally, our students are active participants in a work ethic certification program, which helps equip them with the skills needed for future success. In the 2023-2024 school year, 140 eighth graders earned work ethic certifications, while 132 students received certification for completing the Foundations in Personal Finance Curriculum by Dave Ramsey.

Beyond academics, our extracurricular programs continue to thrive. For the past two years, our band has consistently earned distinguished ratings. Our VEX Robotics team has also qualified for the state competition two years in a row, exemplifying our students' innovation and teamwork and several students placed at our district Lego Robotics competition.

In addition to these achievements, we are honored to have received the Purple Star Award, recognizing our school's dedication to supporting military families and students.

Furthermore, we teach PBIS Laker Expectations throughout the year and students are able to earn Laker Loot for various accomplishments. They can then use this Laker Loot at our monthly PBIS store or at a larger auction that takes place twice a year.

An area of improvement would be to continue to increase our parental involvement in the school. West Hardin would like to host more events in which parents are able to participate. In addition, we want to continue our community involvement and build authentic partnerships with local businesses so that we can better expose our students to opportunities available to them in our community.

#### Additional Information

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

West Hardin's school story can be found on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. We utilize social media to share our school's successes and to constantly communicate with our stakeholders about our school vision of Sailing to Success.

---

# Attachment Summary

Attachment Name	Description	Associated Item(s)
-----------------	-------------	--------------------