



2024-2025 Phase One: Executive Summary for Districts

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Hopkins County
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Table of Contents

2024-2025 Phase One: Executive Summary for Districts 3

2024-2025 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?

Hopkins County Schools is located in the heart of Western Kentucky, serving a diverse student body of over 6,500 students across 15 schools. With a mission to "Reach for the Stars—No Limits," our district is dedicated to providing high-quality educational opportunities that empower all students to achieve their fullest potential.

Over the past three years, Hopkins County has seen notable shifts in both our student and staff demographics. Our student population is becoming increasingly diverse, with 13% of students identifying as African American, Hispanic, Asian, or from other minority groups. Approximately 65% of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch, reflecting a broad spectrum of socioeconomic backgrounds. Additionally, our English Learner (EL) population has grown, now comprising nearly 5% of our total enrollment, as families from various cultural and linguistic backgrounds settle in our welcoming community.

Our staff is composed of nearly 450 certified educators and 300 classified support staff, each bringing unique experiences and a deep commitment to student success. Many of our educators are lifelong residents, providing a strong sense of community and stability within our schools.

The district is centrally located and serves a blend of suburban and rural communities, each with its own unique characteristics and needs. The economy is anchored by a mix of industries, including healthcare, manufacturing, and education, and the area is known for its strong sense of community pride. Over the last three years, we have experienced both growth and challenges, as local industries have expanded, and the COVID-19 pandemic has tested our resilience and adaptability.

Our district has embraced innovation and continuous improvement to meet the needs of our diverse student population. Initiatives such as the implementation of the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) and expanded literacy programs have been instrumental in driving academic success. At the same time, we face challenges related to staffing shortages and increased mental health needs, which we are addressing through targeted professional development and expanded support services.

Despite these challenges, our "Reach for the Stars—No Limits" theme inspires us to push beyond limitations, fostering an environment where every student and staff member feels valued, supported, and encouraged to aim higher. We are committed

to removing barriers to success and creating pathways for all students to achieve their dreams.

District Stakeholders

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

Hopkins County Schools actively engages a diverse group of stakeholders in our continuous improvement process to support the district's mission of providing an exceptional education to all students. Our stakeholders include students, families, educators, administrators, community members, local businesses, and civic organizations. We believe that meaningful involvement from all groups ensures that we address the needs of our diverse community and achieve our "Reach for the Stars—No Limits" vision.

One of the key ways we involve families and the community is through our logic teams, which focus on different pillars of our strategic plan. These teams include parents, teachers, administrators, and community representatives who work together to analyze data, develop goals, and monitor progress for specific areas such as student achievement, curriculum, MTSS, and community partnerships. This collaborative approach ensures that the perspectives of families and community members are integrated into the district's strategic planning and decision-making processes.

Students are central to our efforts, and their voices are valued through participation in student councils, advisory committees, and focus groups. They provide input on curriculum, school climate, and other key issues that directly impact their educational experience. Families are engaged through PTA, family nights, and committees and councils, as well as through their participation on logic teams, where they contribute ideas and feedback to shape district policies and programs.

Our educators and staff are deeply involved in the planning and improvement processes through surveys, professional learning communities, and committee participation. Their insights are essential in ensuring that our strategies reflect classroom needs and promote student success. School and district administrators collaborate to align district goals with school improvement plans and participate in leadership teams that address key topics such as instruction, student services, and resource allocation.

We also have strong partnerships with local businesses, civic organizations, and community leaders who play an integral role in our success. These stakeholders are engaged through advisory boards, the Chamber of Commerce, and community forums, where they help us enhance career and technical education, develop real-world learning experiences, and provide resources for student and staff initiatives.

The Hopkins County Board of Education serves as the guiding force for the district's governance and strategic direction. Board members actively participate in planning, policy development, and monitoring progress toward district goals, working closely

with the superintendent and other stakeholders to support the district's continuous improvement.

The district ensures ongoing stakeholder involvement through a structured and transparent improvement planning process. Regular needs assessments help us identify areas for growth, while surveys and online platforms provide opportunities for feedback. Our district committees and advisory groups, such as the District Planning Committee, review data and provide recommendations for the Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP).

This commitment to stakeholder engagement reflects our belief that diverse perspectives are essential to creating a supportive and dynamic learning environment. By working collaboratively, we strive to provide every student with the opportunity to achieve their fullest potential.

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.

The mission of Hopkins County Schools is "to unite as one team to learn and inspire." Our vision is "preparing today's student to succeed in tomorrow's world." Guided by our theme for the year, "Reach for the Stars—No Limits," we are committed to ensuring that every student is equipped to achieve their highest potential.

The district's "path to getting there" is defined by our Characteristics of a Future Ready Graduate, which outline the skills and attributes our students need to be successful in a rapidly changing world. These characteristics include critical thinking, collaboration, communication, adaptability, and a strong sense of responsibility and integrity.

Hopkins County Schools embodies its mission and vision through a variety of innovative programs and initiatives that support the whole child. Our comprehensive academic offerings include Advanced Placement (AP) courses, dual credit opportunities, and a strong focus on literacy through the implementation of the UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Institute) curriculum. The district's Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) framework ensures that academic, behavioral, and social-emotional interventions are in place to help every student thrive.

To prepare students for postsecondary success, Hopkins County Schools emphasizes college and career readiness through Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways, work-based learning opportunities, and strong community partnerships. The Characteristics of a Future Ready Graduate initiative promotes the development of essential employability skills such as teamwork, effective

communication, and problem-solving, empowering students to be adaptable and resilient in an ever-changing world.

Our purpose and strategic priorities are shaped by collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders, including families, community members, educators, and students. One of the key ways we engage these groups is through our logic teams, which focus on different pillars of the district's strategic plan. Each logic team includes representatives from multiple stakeholder groups, working together to develop goals, monitor progress, and refine strategies that support the district's overall vision.

This inclusive and collaborative approach ensures that the district's mission, vision, and values reflect the aspirations and needs of the entire community. Through our program offerings, commitment to continuous improvement, and strong partnerships, Hopkins County Schools remains dedicated to providing an exceptional education that inspires every student to "Reach for the Stars—No Limits."

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.

Hopkins County Schools has experienced numerous achievements over the past three years, positioning our district as a leader in innovative and student-centered learning. One of our standout initiatives is the implementation of the Characteristics of a Future Ready Graduate, which outlines the skills and attributes our students need to be successful in a rapidly changing world. This framework emphasizes critical thinking, collaboration, communication, and problem-solving—qualities that prepare our students not just for academic success, but also for future careers and community leadership.

To reinforce these characteristics, we have launched Future Ready Fridays across the district. On these days, students engage in a variety of hands-on, project-based learning activities designed to build real-world skills and deepen their understanding of content. This initiative has been instrumental in increasing student engagement and promoting deeper learning experiences. It has allowed students to explore new interests, collaborate with peers, and apply their learning in authentic contexts.

Our focus on Deeper Learning has been another key strength, as we work to create educational experiences that go beyond traditional instruction. This approach includes integrating inquiry-based learning, problem-solving activities, and opportunities for students to take ownership of their learning. As a result, students are developing a growth mindset and a sense of agency that will serve them well throughout their educational journey and beyond.

Additionally, Hopkins County Schools has made significant progress in expanding college and career readiness opportunities. Through the growth of our Career and Technical Education (CTE) pathways, increased access to dual credit and AP courses, and strong community partnerships, we have positioned our students to graduate with the skills and knowledge necessary for postsecondary success. Our students are now able to explore various career fields, gain hands-on experience, and even earn college credit while still in high school.

In literacy, the district has successfully implemented the UFLI (University of Florida Literacy Institute) Foundations curriculum in all elementary schools, leading to improved early reading outcomes. We have also introduced the Lexia program, which provides personalized learning opportunities and supports targeted interventions to close achievement gaps.

Looking Ahead

While Hopkins County Schools will continue to build on these strengths, we recognize the importance of ongoing growth and innovation. Our primary focus for the future is to deepen the impact of our Future Ready Graduate and Deeper Learning initiatives by expanding project-based learning, incorporating more community-based projects, and providing additional professional development for educators. We aim to empower students to take on complex challenges and contribute to their communities in meaningful ways.

As we move forward, Hopkins County Schools will remain committed to providing high-quality, equitable educational opportunities for all students. By leveraging our strong foundation of academic excellence and innovative programs, we will continue to inspire every student to “Reach for the Stars—No Limits.”

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)
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