



2024-2025 Phase One: Executive Summary for
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2024-2025 Phase One: Executive Summary for Districts

Henderson County
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Table of Contents

<u>2024-2025 Phase One: Executive Summary for Districts</u>	3
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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?

Located in northwest Kentucky, Henderson County Schools educates 6,895 students from preschool through Grade 14. 1,074 certified and classified staff (539 classified; 535 certified) support this endeavor throughout Henderson County on 13 school campuses, including an early learning center, 8 elementary schools, 2 middle schools, one comprehensive high school which also houses a career and technical education center, and one alternative learning center for sixth through twelfth-grade students, including a performance-based program. Henderson County Schools, the only public school district in the county, has four elementary schools located within the city limits and four located throughout the county, representing the rural areas of Henderson. Henderson County Schools is proud to have strong community partnerships. Some of our partnerships include working with local businesses and industries to support our CTE students, our Family Resource Youth Services Centers working with nonprofits to help our families, the Henderson County Public Library to promote literacy, and Henderson Community College for dual credit courses for our high school students.

DISTRICT PROFILE ENROLLMENT

6,758 total students; 49.02% Female; 50.98% Male; 53.67% Free and Reduced Lunch; 15% Disability; 70.21% White; 10.19% African American; 10.33% Multi-racial; 10.33% Hispanic; 7.92% Asian; <1% Native Hawaiian/ Other Pacific Islander; <1% American Indian/Alaskan Native

SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

A.B. Chandler Elementary 258; Bend Gate Elementary 422; Cairo Elementary 233; The Central Academy 272; East Heights Elementary 380; Jefferson Elementary 416; Niagara Elementary 273; South Heights Elementary 415; Spottsville Elementary 516; North Middle 674; South Middle 667; Henderson County High 1859; TBJ Early Learning Center 373.

Percentage of Teachers with Master's Degrees: 38.7%; Percentage of Teachers with a Rank I Degree (30 hours beyond a Master's Degree): 36.5%; Percent of First Year Teachers: 5.6%; Beginning Teacher's Salary: \$43,491

Staff: Males 19.3% Females 80.6%. Race (of those who specified): American Indian/Alaskan .09%; Hispanic/ Latino 0.74%; White 92.3%; African American 5.8%; Asian or

Pacific Islander 0.55%. Percent of staff with 0 to 10 years of experience 41.7%, 11 to 20 years of experience 31%, 21+ years of experience 27.1%.

COMMUNITY DEMOGRAPHICS

According to the 2020 US Census Henderson County has a population of 44,046 people. The racial makeup is 88.0% White; 8.4% Black or African American; 0.4% American Indian; 0.6% Asian; 0.1% Pacific Islander; and 2.5% from two or more races. Hispanics or Latinos of any race are 3.2% of the population. Of the 18,194 households in Henderson, the average is 2.41 persons per household. There are 11% more households who own their homes than there are renters. The median income for a household is \$53,635. 12.4% of persons in poverty. In Henderson, 18.0% of persons age 25+ have obtained a Bachelor's degree; 88.5% have a high school degree or higher.

The community of Henderson, Kentucky is in a tri-state area with Illinois and Indiana; the metropolitan area of Evansville, IN, is only 13 miles away on the northern side of the Ohio River and offers a variety of opportunities for students and citizens, including two universities and a technical community college. In addition, Henderson Community College offers associate degrees, diplomas, and certificates. There is also a regional campus for Murray State University. Henderson is home to Audubon State Park and the Preston Fine Arts Center (located on the campus of Henderson Community College).

According to the Henderson Economic Development,, Henderson has a labor force of 11,819 people, with an unemployment rate of 4.8%. Henderson has a total of 1,137 businesses. In 2021, the leading industries in Henderson were Manufacturing, Health Care and Social Services, Public Administration, and Retail. Centrally located and with direct access to major manufacturing facilities, Henderson supports parts manufacturing, injection molding, die casting, fabricated structures, metalworking, woodworking, mining, refining, chemical manufacturing, and more. Henderson still has a strong stake in farm production. Henderson County is one of Kentucky's greatest producers of soybeans and corn. We have been able to complete many upgrades to various facilities as well as build two new elementary schools; Spottsville Elementary, which was completed in November 2018, and Jefferson Elementary completed in August 2022. There have been several major updates to the campuses of South Middle School, Henderson County High School, and South Heights Elementary. We've installed LED lighting in multiple facilities to reduce costs and maintenance, new HVAC systems and controls, fire alarm upgrades, solar panels at 8 of our sites, football field turf, new track surface, softball hitting buildings, new bleachers at NMS and a brand new soccer locker room at the high school. For safety purposes, all schools now have a secured vestibule front entrance area and additional security cameras have been installed throughout the district. Open gate threat detection systems at our secondary schools along with 3M security film in all our schools. Recently, we have purchased the Centegix Alert System and trained all staff on how to use this system when help is needed.

District Stakeholders

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

Our district's stakeholder groups include certified and classified staff, parents/guardians, board members, local media, and community partners.

Our district involves our stakeholders during our monthly board meetings as we recognize students & staff and a community partner each month. After we receive our KSA data, we hold a Council of Councils during one of our fall board meetings so our schools can discuss with our board and other stakeholders the great things happening at their schools as well as areas of growth. During December, we hold our annual District Improvement Plan to get input from all stakeholders as we review and revise our Comprehensive District Improvement Plan.

Throughout the fall, we have Colonel Movement Fridays, where our community partners as well as our staff and students wear maroon in support of our school district. Our student ambassadors from the high school visit our community partners with our mascot to further grow our community relations.

Our superintendent meets with stakeholder groups throughout the year to get feedback and ideas on how to continuously improve as a school district. The groups include staff and parents. Additionally, our Superintendent is committed to keeping our local community thoroughly engaged, connected, and deeply committed to our schools.

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 Henderson County Schools is to provide extraordinary educational opportunities for every student. The vision of Henderson County Schools is to excel as a national innovative leader in education. Our core values are the foundation of all we do. *Authentic Service to All *Excellence in All We Do *Inspire Human Greatness *Genuine Relationships are the foundation of everything we do *Cultivate a community where character matters *Own the Outreach *Be the change agent. Our strategic plan establishes a 5-year focus for all departments that work in unity to achieve our mission and vision. Our school system embodies its purpose through a variety of program offerings from preschool through high school in the areas of academics, career and technical pathways, gifted education, special education, co-curricular and extracurricular activities, athletics, EL programs, and our homeless/migrant program.

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.

Henderson County Schools continually works to create a standard of excellence throughout every school. We are proud to have 3 elementary schools that have been recognized as National Blue Ribbon schools.

At the high school level, 1,708 (nonduplicated) of the 1,859 enrolled students are involved with the career and technical education center, which is in the top 10% of centers in Kentucky and offers 27 pathways. The high school also offers a total of 43 dual credit courses, 23 Advanced Placement courses, and a school of fine arts pathway. Henderson County Schools understands the importance of post-secondary readiness and has implemented a number of programs to advance that initiative including 3 part-time interventionists that focus solely on college readiness, and an additional special education staff dedicated to post-secondary readiness.

We are very proud of our students and teams who have won state and national competitions. We pursue excellence both in academics and in extracurricular activities.

Henderson County Schools was one of only 3 districts in the state to earn the Project AWARE grant. Through this grant we have been able to expand our resources to meet the mental health needs of our students. Through this grant, our district has been able to hire mental health counselors to focus on the social-emotional learning of our students. This year we received \$600,000 from the Kentucky Department of Education Stronger Connections Grant.

The Stronger Connections Grant (SCG) Program is intended to promote local schools' plans to create safe, healthy, and supportive schools that reflect a comprehensive set of evidence-based components. Safe and welcoming schools depend on meaningful engagement between school leaders and students, parents, families, and community members, and strong relationships between students and adults.

The Stronger Connections Grants will allow our district to add more services to schools with the highest mental health, absenteeism, and disciplinary needs. As a districtwide improvement model, all students will be reached with the implementation of new strategies and resources from evidence-based Restorative Practices and by expanding the number of our Mental Health Support Specialists serving students throughout our schools. Henderson County Schools will train all staff district-wide in Restorative Practices and restorative language and circles. This will be accomplished by September 2026. Henderson is one of 28 school districts statewide to receive this grant.

The professional learning of staff dedicated to the education of Henderson students is key to creating an atmosphere of success. Henderson County Schools offers 24 hours of professional learning to certified staff. In addition, professional learning is

embedded throughout the school year at the school and district levels as needed. Teachers have professional learning opportunities so they may learn how to define, understand, and deliver digital learning. New teachers also participate in additional professional learning opportunities provided by the district.

Another strength of our school system is our Response to Intervention programs at all levels. In addition, each of our schools has an instructional coach who works with teachers on instructional strategies, data analysis, and professional learning. Instructional time is dedicated to the advancement of students, from the district's commitment to full-day kindergarten to the commitment of 90-120 minutes of direct ELA instruction at elementary schools and 90 minutes of direct math instruction at the elementary and 84 minutes in ELA and math middle schools. Through curriculum and instruction, benchmark testing (MAP, CERT assessments, and common formative/summative assessments), and a focus on student growth, we strive to pursue excellence in all that we do.

We have also begun implementing the Character Strong program this year at all levels to help teach and build students with great character.

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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