

2026-2027 Phase One: Executive Summary for Districts

Every district has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the district makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a district stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the district and the kinds of programs and services that a district implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary is to provide a district with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the district's community will have a more complete picture of how the district perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the district to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day-to-day basis.

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 Schools is a rural school district located in south central Kentucky and serves students and families throughout Allen County, including the community of Scottsville. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Allen County encompasses approximately 344 square miles and has an estimated population of 22,536 residents as of 2025. The county has experienced population growth in recent years, increasing approximately 9.5% from the 2020 Census base to the 2025 estimate. The community remains predominantly White (94.3%), with 3.2% of residents identifying as Hispanic or Latino, and approximately 14.3% of the population living below the poverty level, according to the U.S. Census Bureau QuickFacts. Allen County Schools serves a predominantly local student population and reflects the characteristics of the community it serves, while also supporting students with a range of academic, economic, and individual needs. According to the Kentucky Department of Education, the district's historical enrollment and School Report Card data provide evidence of changes in enrollment, student demographics, staffing, attendance, and educational programs over time. During the past three years, Allen County Schools has continued to respond to changing student needs by strengthening instruction, using student performance data to guide decisions, and focusing on literacy, mathematics, intervention, and professional learning, as reflected in the district's 2023–2024, 2024–2025, and 2025–2026 Comprehensive District Improvement Plans. The district's rural setting is both a strength and a challenge. The close relationships among schools, families, businesses, and community organizations provide a strong sense of community and support for students; however, the district must also address challenges associated with a rural community, including access to services and opportunities, staffing and recruitment, transportation, and the economic needs of some families. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, Allen County's median household income is \$61,403 and the county has a workforce and business community that includes agriculture, manufacturing, health care, retail, transportation, and small businesses. These characteristics create opportunities for strong community partnerships and career connections while also requiring the district to remain intentional about providing students with equitable access to academic, career, and support services. Overall, Allen County Schools is a

community-centered district that continues to adapt to changing student and community needs while building on the strong relationships and sense of community that characterize Allen County.

District Stakeholders and Partnerships

Identify and describe the district's stakeholder groups. Explain how the district ensures stakeholder involvement and engagement in the improvement planning process. Describe partnerships the district has established to support student achievement and overall school improvement.

Allen County Schools recognizes that meaningful improvement is strongest when the people who live, work, and learn in the community have a voice in shaping the direction of the district. Stakeholder groups include students, parents and families, teachers and school staff, administrators, district leaders, local business and industry partners, community members, higher education partners, and community organizations. Over the past several years, the district has intentionally moved toward a model of shared ownership and co-creation through its participation in Kentucky's Local Laboratories of Learning (L3) initiative. The Allen County L3 team is comprised of a diverse group of stakeholders, including students, parents, educators, business and community leaders, and other community members who have worked together to examine what the community values in education and what students need to be successful after graduation. According to Allen County Schools, this work has included listening tours, empathy interviews, focus groups, book studies, community forums, and collaborative visioning activities and has helped shape the district's vision, mission, Profile of a Patriot, and actions related to teaching, learning, assessment, and accountability. The district's visioning process was intentionally designed as a multi-year effort rather than a single planning event, allowing stakeholder feedback to influence both the district's overall direction and the actions taken to move that vision forward. The district continues this work through SBDM councils, public meetings, family engagement events, surveys, school exhibitions, and ongoing opportunities for students, families, staff, and community members to provide feedback. More recently, Allen County Schools partnered with the Center for Innovation in Education and the University of Kentucky on a research project that engaged more than 700 stakeholders through surveys, interviews, focus groups, and narrative capture to better understand community perceptions of the district's vision, direction, and approach to improvement. The district also uses perception data gathered through family engagement events and other stakeholder interactions to identify strengths, concerns, and opportunities for continued improvement. These efforts reflect the district's commitment to making stakeholder voice an ongoing part of planning and decision-making across all areas of the organization. Partnerships with the Center for Innovation in Education, the University of Kentucky, local businesses, community organizations, and other community partners further strengthen the district's ability to support student achievement, provide authentic learning and career experiences, and respond to community needs. A local dashboard has been created as a result of stakeholder input as a way to build transparency and partner with our community is growing our students' toward the desired outcomes identified within the Profile of a Patriot. Through these sustained efforts, Allen County Schools is building a culture in which stakeholders are not simply informed about district decisions but are actively involved in helping shape the vision, priorities, and actions that guide the future of Allen County Schools.

District's Purpose

Provide the district's purpose statement and supplementary 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.

Allen County Schools' purpose is grounded in a shared commitment to developing engaged, resilient citizens who pursue their passions, maximize their strengths, contribute to their communities, and find meaningful purpose in life. The district's mission is to nurture, inspire, and empower the next generation through joyful, authentic, and meaningful learning experiences. The vision, mission, and core values were last revised in 2022 through a collaborative process involving students, parents, staff, business leaders, and community members. These beliefs are reflected in the district's Profile of a Patriot and Learner-Centered Instructional Model, which guide expectations for students and shape instructional practices, programs, and learning experiences. Students are provided opportunities to discover their strengths and interests through academic programs, career and technical education, project-based and authentic learning, extracurricular activities, leadership opportunities, and community partnerships. The district also provides multiple pathways and supports to meet individual student needs. Stakeholder voice continues to influence the district's direction through the L3 stakeholder team, SBDM councils, family engagement events, focus groups, surveys, and community partnerships. Through these ongoing efforts, Allen County Schools ensures that its purpose remains connected to the needs, aspirations, and experiences of the students and community it serves.

Notable Achievements

Describe the district's notable achievements in the last three years.

Over the past three years, Allen County Schools has made significant progress in strengthening the quality and breadth of learning experiences available to students while building the capacity of educators to meet evolving student needs. The district has increased its focus on evidence-based instructional practices and high-quality professional learning, with an intentional emphasis on developing the knowledge, skills, and capacity of adult learners. Classrooms increasingly provide students with authentic opportunities to demonstrate what they know and can do through project-based learning, performance tasks, exhibitions, and other meaningful learning experiences. These opportunities intentionally embed Kentucky Academic Standards with the competencies identified in the Profile of a Patriot, allowing students to demonstrate both content knowledge and the skills needed for success beyond high school. The district has also expanded academic, career, leadership, and enrichment opportunities to provide students with multiple pathways to discover their strengths and interests. A notable achievement has been the development of a more comprehensive, system wide approach to supporting new teachers. Through a multi-tiered support structure, new educators receive intentional onboarding, mentoring, peer observations, coaching, professional learning, and ongoing support based on their individual needs and level of experience. This approach is designed to strengthen instructional practice, increase teacher confidence and retention, and ensure that new teachers have the support necessary to be successful. Together, these efforts reflect Allen County Schools'

commitment to continuous improvement, evidence-based instruction, meaningful student learning, and building the capacity of both students and adults across the district.

Areas for Improvement

Describe areas for improvement that the district is striving to achieve in the next three years.

Over the next three years, Allen County Schools will focus on strengthening the instructional core by deepening the quality of student tasks, teacher planning, and classroom learning experiences. A continued priority will be ensuring that students engage in grade level tasks that require them to do the thinking, make meaning, and demonstrate their learning with increasing independence throughout the lesson. The district is intentionally strengthening performance assessment practices across schools with a focus on mastery based learning, providing students with meaningful opportunities to demonstrate proficiency in both Kentucky Academic Standards and the competencies outlined in the Profile of a Patriot. Professional learning and collaboration structures will increasingly use thinking protocols to move teams beyond simply listing activities or tasks and toward deeper consideration of the intent of the standard, the purpose of the lesson, and the evidence of learning students should produce. Teachers are being supported in examining whether instructional decisions preserve the intended rigor of the standard and whether students, rather than the teacher or resource, are doing the cognitive work. Even when high-quality instructional resources are provided, the district's expectation is that teachers intentionally design and facilitate learning so that students are actively thinking, problem-solving, discussing, creating, and demonstrating understanding. This work is grounded in Allen County's Learner Centered Instructional Model and commitment to mastery based learning and will require continued investment in professional learning, collaborative planning, coaching, and the development of shared expectations for high-quality instruction across the district.

Additional Information

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