

Phase Three: Executive Summary for Districts_12112018_15:54

Phase Three: Executive Summary for Districts

Elizabethtown Independent
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Phase Three: Executive Summary for Districts

Executive Summary for Districts

Description of the District

Describe the district 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?

The Elizabethtown Independent Schools District, established over 200 years ago, embodies its mission statement of a "Tradition of Excellence: High Standards, Each Student, Every Day" and has consistently ranked in the top tiers of all school districts in the Commonwealth of Kentucky. All of the schools in the Elizabethtown Independent Schools District have been accredited by SACS CASI for decades with its most recent accreditation occurring in 2016. Elizabethtown High School, in fact, has been accredited with SACS since 1918, making it one of the very first accredited schools in Kentucky. This Tradition of Excellence is also reflected in extracurricular activities, both academic and athletic. For example, Elizabethtown High School currently holds 13 athletic championships and 21 state runner-up awards. Elizabethtown Independent Schools values its small size; our current district enrollment consists of approximately 2,400 students, preschool through grade twelve. Being relatively small affords unique benefits. It has fostered the development of meaningful relationships and partnerships with students, families, staff, and the community. Our small size offers students the opportunity to be more involved as participants in school sponsored activities and extracurricular events. Approximately, fifty percent (50%) of our students, including preschool, receive Free and Reduced Lunches and thirty-two percent (32%) of our student population represent minorities. We have 159 certified staff with 26 teachers holding National Board Teacher Certification and 173 classified staff. One unique characteristic of our district is the number of non-contract/tuition paying students; we have approximately 66 of our students paying tuition of almost \$4,000 per year to attend our schools. Elizabethtown Independent Schools is located in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, the county seat for Hardin County, Kentucky's fourth largest county. Forty-four miles south of Louisville, with a population of approximately 28,500 people, the city is often referred to as "Hub City" because most of the major interstates in Kentucky intersect in Elizabethtown. The city's central location in the state, coupled with easy access to major interstates, has drawn a number of major industries to the Elizabethtown community and enhanced its commerce and growth. Residing close to Fort Knox, the community has been impacted by the ebb and flow of the military service members as the focus and mission of the post has changed over the years. Our district population has been impacted by these changes over the last few years as well. The recent Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) has ushered in numerous students, and we are working with the support services on Post to meet the unique needs of these students. At this time, we have approximately 100 students enrolled in the district whose families are affiliated with the military. The Elizabethtown community offers a wide variety of post-secondary education opportunities through Elizabethtown Community and Technical College (ECTC) as well as the satellite branch of Western Kentucky University, located on the ECTC campus. The addition of WKU's satellite branch has afforded residents an opportunity to secure both two and four-year degrees without having to relocate. This has been a tremendous asset, not only to its students, but to the military installation and other corporations who are seeking a highly educated work force. The community maintains a rich history that includes a link to Abraham Lincoln, the establishment of the Louisville/Nashville Railroad, and a Civil War battle in 1862. The county's historical museum is in the city of Elizabethtown and is a center of attraction to both residents and visitors to the city and county. The city also maintains a community center and numerous parks, including Freeman Lake Park with its beautiful lake, picnic

facilities, pavilions for community concerts and special events, paddle boats, fishing, and walking trails with wonderful views. A 150 acre sports complex recently opened in the summer of 2012; major sporting events for the state and region have already occurred at the sports complex and draw hundreds of people to the community. Medical and professional services of every type are available in the city; this includes a 300 plus bed hospital, Hardin Memorial Hospital, which continues to expand through the construction of additions to the current facility. According to the most recent quality rating released by the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Hardin Memorial Hospital is ranked in the top 25% nationwide for quality services. Several shopping areas, to include "super stores" and a fully enclosed mall, are located within the city limits. A resurgence of Elizabethtown's downtown area has occurred the last several years with the establishment of multiple restaurants, cafes, and boutiques. In addition, a large number of major restaurants have recently been added to accommodate the dining needs of the community. Elizabethtown is surrounded by numerous tourist attractions: Mammoth Cave National Park, Abraham Lincoln Birthplace, My Old Kentucky Home State Park, Fort Knox and the Gold Vault, Patton Museum, Churchill Downs, the Yum Center, and Slugger Museum.

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District's Purpose

Provide the district's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs.

Describe how the district embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

In 2012, the district adopted an updated mission statement that states "A Tradition of Excellence: High Standards, Each Student, Every Day." District policy ensures a district planning committee, representative of the community and the school district, consisting of teachers, principals, council members, central office administrators, board members, classified staff, parents, community representatives, and high school students that will develop, monitor, and annually update a Strategic District Improvement Plan. In 2016, Superintendent Jon Ballard, worked with stakeholders to develop a plan with strategic objectives, targets, and strategies. The district's vision statement is as follows: "1) Students who are motivated, challenged, and empowered to be lifelong learners prepared to succeed in a changing, diverse, technological society, 2) A School District that is willing to do whatever it takes to meet the needs of each student and ensure each child's educational and personal success, 3) Parents who are active partners, equipped to participate in the learning process of each student, and 4) A Community who is an active partner in securing resources and tools that will assist each child in discovering his or her greatest potential." A Tradition of Excellence: High Standards, Each Student, Every Day is the mission that is demonstrated in every Elizabethtown Independent School. This philosophy of placing students and families first, as the primary customer, is foundational to sustaining the "Tradition of Excellence". EIS consistently ranks in the top 15% on state achievement assessments, has outstanding extracurricular activities, and has earned several academic and athletic awards. None of this would be possible without the district's focus on building and maintaining healthy relationships with its community, staff, students, and families. This is the heart of this small school district, just 2,400 students, and is a source of community pride. The high value placed on relationships among all stakeholders embodies the essence of what is meant by "A Tradition of Excellence". It is foundational to the Panther Pride that is felt among all the students at each school in the district.

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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.

As a result of conducting every day school business with the "Tradition of Excellence" mission in mind, and an emphasis on customer service among students, families, communities, and staff, the district is proud of many accomplishments. While the district website showcases most of these, a list below is provided to name just a few: Increase in Career Pathway opportunities through the district's ACES program, 26 National Board Certified Teachers (These teachers are represented in all schools), ExCEL (Excellence in Classroom and Educational Leadership) Award Participant for 28 years, Average composite 2018 ACT is 21.2, Small Accredited Schools and Classrooms with 16:1 student to teacher ratio, 95% Graduation Rate, State and Nationally recognized Project Lead the Way Programs at Elementary, Middle, and High Schools, Gifted and Talented Advisory Council (State Recognition and Strong Program), ALL DAY Preschool for 4 Year Olds, High quality and flexible professional development for teachers, Most classrooms now utilize Active/Smart Boards, EHS Holds 13 Athletic Championships and 21 State Runner-Ups, Active Alumni Association, Active Elizabethtown Education Foundation, Summer Programs for At Risk Students, Communicare and School District Intervention Program, Partnership with Advance Ky with implementation of open AP enrollment for high school students, and a One to One Chromebook program at Elizabethtown High School. With a transition in student enrollment demographics the last 5 years, the district has encountered challenges that come with a growing and changing population. Many students that now enroll in the district are transient and deal with multiple poverty issues. This changing demographic drives our focus areas for improvement. In response, our district has increased efforts to identify and meet the needs of at-risk gap students, increase student engagement, and ensure that every senior is college and/or career ready upon graduation. It is notable and a source of pride that our high school has continued to excel in the academic arena by maintaining top 10% status in the state on assessment results regardless of these challenges.

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Additional Information

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

NA

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ATTACHMENT SUMMARY

Attachment Name	Description	Item(s)
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