



2020-21 Phase Three: Executive Summary for
Districts_09022020_08:21

2020-21 Phase Three: Executive Summary for Districts

Harlan County
Brent Douglas Roark
251 Ball Park Rd
Harlan, Kentucky, 40831
United States of America

Table of Contents

<u>2020-21 Phase Three: Executive Summary for Districts</u>	3
---	---

2020-21 Phase Three: Executive Summary for Districts

. 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?

In 2019-2012 the Harlan County School System served 3,700 students in rural Southeastern Kentucky. Harlan County borders Bell, Leslie, Letcher, and Perry Counties as well as the state of Virginia. It encompasses 467.97 square miles. Harlan County boasts Kentucky's highest peak, Black Mountain, which climbs to 4,145 feet above sea level. The population of Harlan County is estimated to be 27,703 in 2015. It has steadily declined since 1940 when there were 75,275 residents. Harlan County is home to the Black Mountain Off Road Adventure Area which as has been featured in at least 12 major publications and/or television shows, as well as being touted as America's #1 ATV destination more than once. It also offers an 11-line, 2 mile zipline. Numerous horseback riding, hiking, canoeing/kayaking hunting, fishing, camping, golfing, and cultural-historical activities/sites are offered and being emphasized by local leaders. The city of Cumberland is known as the Black Bear Capital of Kentucky. This has attracted visitors for bear-viewing within nearby Kingdom Come State Park. Further interest of the locale has sparked since Kentucky has reinstated a bear-hunting season Two television shows, Justified (on FX) and Kentucky Justice (National Geographic), have brought some notoriety back to the County.....if only by name. Justified has rekindled a resurgence of the once heavily-Justified has rekindled a resurgence of the once heavily-used nickname "Bloody Harlan", given to describe the violent skirmishes of the 1930's between coal operators and the miners. This label later resurfaced after the critically-acclaimed documentary Harlan County USA was released in 1974. This film depicted similar labor unrests within the coalfields of the 1970's. Kentucky Justice is a reality show that chronicles many of the dangerous situations the Harlan County Sheriff's Department encounter on a daily basis. Other than the recent push towards (eco) tourism discussed above, Harlan County has been offered few opportunities to instigate diversity within its' economy. An outdated road system is viewed as a major contributing factor to this. Harlan County Schools serve the majority of the county's students. Other educational institutions include the much smaller Harlan Independent School District (city of Harlan), the small private Harlan County Christian School, and two campuses of the Southeast Kentucky Community and Technical College System. There are eight schools in the District with a K-8 configuration: Black Mountain Elementary, Cawood Elementary, Cumberland Elementary, Evarts Elementary, Green Hills Elementary, James A. Cawood Elementary, Rosspoint Elementary, and Wallins Elementary. Harlan County High,

home of the now infamous "Black Bears", is our only high school. It houses grades 9-12 and was formed from the consolidation of Cumberland, Evarts, and James A. Cawood High Schools in 2008. Although we sub-contract our preschool services through Head Start, we house one K-4 classroom within each of our primary schools except Rosspoint Elementary (due to limited space). There are also three separate, service-supported Head Start centers within the county at Grays Knob, Verda, and in Cumberland (Tri-Cities). Not one of our elementary schools has a teacher certified in Gifted Education. Our high school has one teacher certified in Gifted Education. Our elementary schools do not offer a pull out program for gifted and talented students. Our high school offers honors, dual-credit and AP courses to accelerate learning for gifted and talented students.

. 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.

One of the main goals of the Harlan County School System is to prepare every learner so they are college and/or career ready. We want to collaborate with all of our stakeholders to ensure Harlan County is a work-ready community. Our schools must guarantee that each student has been given the necessary exposure to academic and extra-curricular foundations needed for post-school transitions and success. Our school system embodies its purpose through our numerous program offerings and high expectations for students. We have a tremendous dual-credit program for the college-bound student, numerous Career and Technical Education (CTE)/vocational offerings for those seeking industry certifications or entering a trade, an outstanding Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps program (one of the largest programs in Kentucky) with courses and offered guidance for those wanting a basis to learn about the military and its requirements (however, JROTC is not a recruiting venue), and a strong basic diploma for those wanting to directly enter the workforce. Our Mission is to empower ALL STUDENTS for the choices and challenges of the 21st Century. We accept the responsibility of providing a quality education to ensure that each student regardless of gender, ethnicity, socioeconomic, or physically-challenged status has the opportunity to develop their abilities to the highest level. We embrace the goals set forth in the Kentucky Education Reform Act: expecting high achievement from all students and commitment from the community, parents, faculty, staff and administrators. We place emphasis on relating education to real life experiences, resulting in a smooth transition into adulthood and providing a risk free, caring, safe environment.

. 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.

Over the last three years, the Harlan County Public School District has continually strived to create and nurture many innovative programs and practices within our one consolidated high school, as well as throughout our eight elementary schools. The District has also worked extensively with our schools' administrations and faculties to provide and implement high-quality professional development that targets the Common Core State Standards (CCSS/KCAS), Characteristics of Highly Effective Teaching and Learning (CHETL), GAP closure, refinement of our Response to Intervention (RtI) process, College and Career Readiness, and Graduation Rate (including implications for the community) Ownership of success has been fostered within teachers as we have collaboratively explored the effects of poverty on academics, the importance of differentiated instruction (including implementation of Marzano's research-based strategies), what effective co-teaching looks like, formative and summative assessment development, , deep exploration of Kentucky's adapted Danielson's Framework for Teaching Document. The district, school leadership, and district teacher leaders also participate in the Instructional Support Leadership Network (ISLN) led by the Kentucky Department of Education/ Kentucky Valley Educational Cooperative to guarantee that our schools gain exposure to the cutting edge of educational research and advances. We also collaborate with and receive resources from the Southeast South-Central Educational Cooperative in special education and preschool. Given many of our students with disabilities (who have overall scored well over the past three years) receive Free/Reduced Price Meals, our current primary impacting GAP group is students with Free/Reduced Price Meals. Harlan County Schools will continue to strive over the coming years to ensure that all students are college and career ready. We consistently utilize the PtG tool, IEPs (when applicable), ILPs, and IGPs. Through KVEC, we are now employing WIN Learning's KY C3R initiative (myStrategic Compass, Career Readiness Courseware, Soft Skill curriculum, etc.). HCHS also has fifteen classes dedicated to Dual Credit. All of the classes are completely free. Ambitious students can graduate from HCHS with enough credits to be a sophomore in college! On the other end of the continuum, students that are in danger of failing, dropping out, or are experiencing other obstacles inhibiting completion of graduation can participate in the E-School program. E-School involves computer-based instruction with the collaborative support of a certified teacher/ mentor to assist students in a non-traditional way towards completion of coursework. The class size is limited and the curriculum is self-paced. All of our schools have offered a GearUP program which provided certified and classified teachers that offered academic tutoring. The program likewise provided support through many creative outlets and wellness activities. In August 2019, the District joined with Save The Children to improve our student's reading scores. The GEAR

UP Academic Specialists are also assigned at all schools. There is one GEAR UP Academic Specialist assigned to each of the eight K-8 schools and the high school. The GEAR UP Academic Specialist provides GEAR UP program services to qualified students identified as members of the GEAR UP cohort. Members of the GEAR UP Cohort in Harlan County may consist of any student enrolled in the 6th -12th grade in the School District during the 2018 -2019 academic year. The Academic Specialist shall provide direct services to GEAR UP students - including academic counseling, guidance counseling and tutoring. As well, they shall recruit students for GEAR UP activities, maintain files on GEAR UP students, participate in GEAR UP activities, document participation in GEAR UP activities, and perform all such other work as may be assigned to the Academic Specialist consistent with the GEAR UP Grant. In particular, they must: 1. provide academic interventions to all GEAR UP students both individually and collectively, 2. use an early warning system to determine individual student needs, 3. assist all GEAR UP students in meeting CCR targets and benchmarks, 4. have the ability to tutor students in academic disciplines of math and/or English, 5. have an understanding of the skills and benchmarks, 4. have the ability to tutor students in academic disciplines of math and/or English, 5. have an understanding of the skills and academic levels needed to be college and career ready, 6. connect with teachers and families to ensure student receives appropriate interventions, 7. review student data to determine impact of interventions and next steps, and 8. believe that all students can be college and career ready. Each school also has a Family Resource and Youth Service Center that provides additional assistance to students and families that either need and/or want them. All schools hold either mid-term or end-of-term (SBDM choice) parent-teacher conferences to maintain an open line of communication regarding student success and achievement. The District employs a Community Relations person. He consistently conveys District/schools' news in our local newspaper. We have recently spearheaded a District Facebook page as well. The District has heavily emphasized parental involvement via all 2019 SBDM trainings. All memberships were encouraged to participate in face-to-face training with the District SBDM Coordinator offers activities that foster positive school-home relationships. Harlan County Schools hired a School Level District Gifted and Talented Liaison at each school to serve as a bridge in communication between the school and district GT coordinator. The school level GT liaison will work with regular education teachers in the building to help identify, plan the GSSP and monitor the progress of Gifted and Talented students. The school level GT liaison will regularly attend professional learning related to the needs of gifted and talented students and share that information with teaching staff. The school level GT liaison will participate in the district wide identification and placement committee to engage in collegial conversation about gifted education with other GT liaisons across the district. The ways in which GT will improve are for each school to increase the number of

students identified into gifted education and more professional development for regular education teachers relating to the identification and service of Gifted and Talented students.

. **Districts Supporting CSI/TSI (including ATSI) Schools Only:** Describe the procedures for monitoring and providing support for (a) CSI/TSI school(s) so as to ensure the successful implementation of the school improvement plan.

N/A

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

Harlan County Schools CDIP Coordinator: Lisa Lewis- Harlan County Schools Title 1 Coordinator 251 Ball Park Road 1-(606)-573-4330 extension 2041

Attachment Summary

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