



2023-2024 Phase One: Executive Summary for
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2023-2024 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools

Heritage Elementary School
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Description of the School

Describe the school'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 school serves?

Heritage Elementary is a preschool-5th grade school located in a rural farming community in the Hitchins and Willard area of southern Carter County. Enrollment is approximately 360 students. In the past three years we have experienced a slight increase in enrollment and continue to experience a relatively high degree of transiency (students moving in and out of our community/school). Compared to other schools in the area, we seem to have retained more of our students since returning to in-person learning following the pandemic. Our community has a very low socioeconomic population. Drug abuse and its related social ills have, unfortunately, become a part of our culture as has the increased number of students being raised by grandparents or other extended family members.

School Stakeholders

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

Our stakeholders consist of primarily 3 groups: students, staff, and guardians/caregivers. A high percentage of our student population come from low-income households. We also have a relatively low percentage of minority. Our staff consists of 26 certified and 28 classified staff members including two Americorp workers. Our guardians/caregivers consist of biological, adoptive, and foster parents as well as aunts, uncles, grandparents, great grandparents, and others. These individuals are involved in the improvement planning process through surveys, representation on the school council, and through opportunities to review student performance data and preliminary data analysis and improvement planning drafts.

School's Purpose

Provide the school'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 school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students and how stakeholders are involved in its development.

Mission Statement: Keeping our children safe while preparing them for a successful tomorrow. Vision Statement: Developing the character and the skills needed to be successful in school and in life. Belief Statements: We Believe: 1. The safety and well-being of students is our top priority. 2. Education is a powerful force that makes a difference in students' lives. 3. All students can learn and reach higher

levels of proficiency. 4. All teachers can and should strive to teach at higher levels of proficiency. 5. Parental involvement is a crucial component of student success. 6. Collaboration among staff, students, and parents is crucial for student success. 7. Heritage Elementary can become the highest performing elementary school in Carter County. 8. Good Patriots show up, work hard, follow the rules, care about others, and never give up. These are reviewed annually by stakeholders who are given the opportunity to provide input for potential revision. Heritage Elementary embodies these statements with highly skilled educators who use high yield best practices as learned via district facilitated and school-based professional learning. We provided intervention services to all students. We have aligned our courses and assessments to the Kentucky Academic Standards. We function as a school team in grade level and content area based PLC's. We have an active parent population.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

Our most notable achievement over the last three years is in our enrollment. Following multiple years of decline, our enrollment for the last three years has increased by about 35 students. For the coming years we will continue to decrease the % of students who have fallen below grade level in their academic performance due to lack of instruction during the pandemic. We also are working to improve attendance and school culture and climate. which seems to have plateaued.

Additional Information

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

We have highly skilled and motivated teachers, bright and capable students, and a strong core of parental support and confidence. Historically our school has accounted for about 85-90% of our district's total number of volunteer hours. We provide parents with a variety of ways to be involved - conferences, parent volunteer program, regular family night events, school programs and holiday celebrations, etc. Our working conditions survey data over the past several years has showed an improvement in teacher perceptions about their working conditions. We love our school and we are very proud of the work we do here.

Attachment Summary

Attachment Name	Description	Associated Item(s)
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