

## 2018-2019 Phase Three: Executive Summary for Districts\_11092018\_10:45

### Phase Three: Executive Summary for Districts

**Bell County**  
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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?

Every school system has its own story to tell. Bell County's story begins by sharing the context in which teaching and learning takes place. This context influences the processes and procedures by which the school system makes decisions about curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school system stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as the trends and issues affecting the school system from within and from the community as well as the kinds of programs and services that a system implements to support student learning. The Bell County School District serves approximately 2760 preschool through twelfth grade students. These students are served by 6 preschool through 8th grade school centers, 1 high school (9th - 12th grades), and 1 alternative school. Our district partner with the Bell Whitley Community Action Agency to provide a fully blended preschool model that includes Headstart to help promote Kindergarten Readiness. In addition, our district has also added two more preschool classes (one at Bell Central and one at Yellow Creek School Centers) to meet the needs of this age group. WE also provide a full day of Kindergarten to help meet the students' needs. Our schools are located across the various communities without our county lines that reach from the Fourmile community to Red Bird to Page Cut Off to the Frakes community and even extends to the city of Middlesboro which is located on the Kentucky/Tennessee/Virginia border. Our community, parents and students are serviced by 200 certified teachers, 49 instructional assistants, 35 cooks, 26 custodians, 36 bus drivers, 7 Family Resource Youth Service Centers, 1 district social worker, 1 Community Education coordinator, and 1 certified parent liaison. 81% of our students qualify for free/reduced lunch program which evidences the low socioeconomic status of our county. Our enrollment has shown a significant decline in the past two to three years. From one year ago, our enrollment has declined by 81 students. This decline is in addition to approximately 110 student loss for the two previous years. This decline is due to the loss of jobs and the reduction of opportunities in our area. Although our enrollment has continued to decline, our special education population has maintained the same percentage of 16.6% for 2017-2018 school year. Our district has identified 7.5% of the student population as Gifted and Talented. Historically, our county's financial success parallels that of the coal industry which has seen a huge decline for multiple years. This decline has contributed significantly to the decrease in our population and our student enrollment. Thus, one of our biggest challenges we face in our area is economic growth which, in turn, would impact our schools. In addition to that challenge, there is yet another that has impacted our school culture and it is the increase in the number of students being raised by extended family members. Our district continues to work to overcome each of these barriers in order to produce students who are transition ready.

#### **ATTACHMENTS**

Please be sure to upload the files in the Attachments section at the end of the diagnostic.

#### **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.

The Bell County School District's mission states that the parents, employees, and community partners strive to provide the individualized support necessary to ensure that each student reaches his or her full potential and is prepared, upon graduation, to successfully pursue their college or career ambitions. This mission was developed by the district and school level administration including both the Special Education and Gifted/Talented directors at that time. This mission is at the heart of what the district, each school, and each employee does for our students on a daily basis whether it be through the instruction given in the classroom, the relationships built with bus drivers or cooks, or the basic needs of the student being met by the FRYSC centers and other support staff. Our district has high expectations for the teaching and learning that occurs within each and every classroom every day. We ensure high quality instruction by providing effective and engaging professional learning opportunities (Alex Kajitani - California Teacher of the Year, Kathleen Budge - Poverty, Stephanie Harmon - Total Participation Techniques, etc.) for all teachers. Two Instructional Supervisors area utilized at each school to help with ongoing curriculum alignment with the Kentucky Academic Standards across all content areas, continuing the implementation of the work of Rick Stiggins including Daily Learning Targets and Formative/ Summative Assessment. We are presently in our ninth year of utilizing MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) test as our universal screener for grades K through eight. We are in our 2nd year of web-based MAP, which has provided a larger variety of reports for more meaningful and in-depth data analysis. Our high school is currently implementing CERT (College Equipped Readiness Tool) for 9th graders. The data from both online assessments is used to inform whole class and individual student instruction (universal screener and placement in Rti). Our district has partnered with Berea and was awarded a new Gear Up Grant. We are currently in the process of hiring 7 Academic Interventionists and 7 College and Career Navigators who will start work in January of 2019 working with our middle school students for the remainder of this year. They will provide in school tutoring, mentoring, transition support to high school, family nights, etc. Our district continues to work to enhance our students' educational experiences and opportunities in order to provide them with the 21st Century Skills needed to be successful.

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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.

Over the course of the previous two years our district demonstrated steady growth based on the state accountability data (2015-2016 District 73.1; 2016-2017 Improved upon previous year's score - district calculation based on previous formula). As our state accountability system continues to change and transition, our district continues to work on quality instruction through curriculum alignment of maps, units of study, lesson plans and assessments to the standards. During the 2015-2016 Accountability cycle, our district was categorized as a Distinguished District in addition to being fourth in the state for improvement. Results for the 2016-2017 school year showed that our district not only maintained, but actually grew. Based on the 2017-2018 accountability results, our district and all of our schools at all levels (Elementary, Middle, and High) are categorized as Other. Our middle level is by far the area of strength - Proficiency at middle level is 62nd out of 173 districts; Separate Academic Indicator at middle level is 52nd out of 173; Growth at middle level is 54th out of 173. At the elementary level, the Separate Academic Indicator is 49 out of 173 which would be an area of strength. Elementary and high school proficiency, elementary growth, and gap at all levels for students with disabilities will be focus areas of improvement for the district.

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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.

Although the Bell County School District is located in an area that is rich in tradition, heritage, and culture, we find that our area lacks in diverse opportunities and experiences that other regions easily access. We, as educators, must continuously strive to overcome these regional barriers to provide more diverse experiences for our students in the areas of arts, sciences, and technology in order to have them better prepared for their futures.

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## ATTACHMENT SUMMARY

Attachment Name	Description	Item(s)
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