

## 2019-20 Phase Three: Executive Summary for Districts\_11062019\_10:44

2019-20 Phase Three: Executive Summary for Districts

**Bell County**  
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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

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2019-20 Phase Three: Executive Summary for Districts.....	3
Attachment Summary.....	6

## 2019-20 Phase Three: Executive Summary for Districts

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#### 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?

Every school system has its own story to tell. The Bell County School District's story begins with 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 remains focused on 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 2633 preschool through twelfth grade students (this number is down 127 students from last year's enrollment). These students are served by 6 preschool through 8th grade school centers, 1 high school (9th - 12th graders), and 1 alternative school. Our district partners 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 three more preschool classes (one at Bell Central, one at Yellow Creek, and one at Right Fork) 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 throughout 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 borders. Our community, parents, and students are serviced by approximately 200 certified employees, 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. 82% of our students qualify for free and reduced feeding program which evidences the low socioeconomic status of our county. Our enrollment has shown a significant decline in the past few years which constitutes a trend with 127 less this year, 81 less at this time last school year, 110 students less from the previous two years combined. This decline is due to loss of job and reduction of job opportunities in our area. This decline also creates issues of how to provide what is needed to our students with less funding. Our special education population is currently at 16.7% as of the December 1 count for 2019. Our Gifted and Talented population is currently 9.38%. Historically, our county's financial success parallels that of the coal industry which has seen a tremendous decline for multiple years with no indication of this changing. The Pineville Community Hospital was another large employer for our county. The hospital has had months upon months of issues to the point of many layoffs and almost closing. Both of these issues have contributed significantly to the decrease in our population and our student enrollment. Thus, one of our biggest challenges for our county 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. 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.

#### 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 district and school level administration including both the Special Education and Gifted & Talented directors at the 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 and cooks, or the basic needs of the student being met by the FRYSC coordinators and other support staff. Our district holds high expectations for the teaching and learning that occurs within each and every classroom every day. We strive to ensure high quality instruction by providing effective and engaging professional learning opportunities (e.g. Bell County Schools New Standards project, KAGAN, PLTW, Question Formulation Techniques, Too Good For Drugs, etc.) for all teachers. Three Instructional Supervisors are utilized to help with ongoing curriculum alignment with the newly adopted Kentucky Academic Standards across all content areas continuing with the work of Rick Stiggins including Daily Learning Targets and Formative/Summative Assessment. We are presently in our tenth year of utilizing the MAP assessment as our universal screener for grades K -8. Our high school started using MAP this year as well for the 9th and 10th graders. The data from this online assessment is used to inform whole class and individual student instruction. Our district has also partnered with Berea for the Gear Up SOAR grant. We currently have 7 Academic Interventionists (AI) and 7 College and Career Navigators (CCN) serving the grant cohort of students. The A Is and CCNs work with students in a variety of ways including in school tutoring, mentoring, transition support to high school, family nights, college field trips, 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.

#### 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 our state accountability system continues to change as well as newly revised Kentucky Academic Standards are adopted, our district strives to continue to provide our students with exceptional learning experiences and high quality instruction. At present our district is working on The New Standards project across content areas with a focus on The Opportunity Myth, the new KAS, and the implications on our curriculum and instruction in each classroom. The Bell County Schools New Standards Project has focused on revising curriculum maps, revising/rewriting units of study, and creating new assessments. Our district is comprised of six K-8 schools. Thus, we have 6 middle schools. The middle school area is by far our strongest area across the district. Bell Central School Center at the middle school level received a 5 star rating and was 2nd in the state. Three of the other five schools received 4 star ratings at the middle school level. Our targeted areas of improvement will be the high school level that received a 2 star rating and the elementary level which is primarily at a 3 star rating. We consider this rating to be a "middle of the road" status and is not acceptable as we expect more.

#### Additional Information

**Districts Supporting CSI/TSI 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.

Although the Bell County School District is a rural area located in southeastern Kentucky, it is an area that is rich in tradition, heritage, and culture. We find that our area lacks in diverse economical and cultural experiences that other regions access with ease. We, as educators, must continuously

strive to overcome these regional barriers to provide more diverse experiences for our students in the fields of arts, sciences, and technology in order to have them better prepared for their futures.

#### Additional Information

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

N/A

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## Attachment Summary

Attachment Name	Description	Associated Item(s)
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