



2024-2025 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools_09102024_19:35

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Dry Ridge Elementary
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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?

Dry Ridge Elementary is located in Grant County, Kentucky, a community with a population of approximately 25,000 people. The school serves 393 students, including 190 female and 203 male students. The student body reflects a diverse demographic with 5 African American students, 2 American Indian students, and 20 Hispanic students. A significant portion of the student population (330 students) is economically disadvantaged, and the school provides additional support for students with 116 students on Individualized Education Programs (IEPs) and 47 identified as Gifted and Talented. The school has a dedicated staff of 65 members, including three special education units and services such as occupational therapy (OT), physical therapy (PT), and two speech-language pathologists (SLPs). Dry Ridge Elementary operates within a Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) district, ensuring all students receive free breakfast and lunch. In the last three years, the school has experienced changes and growth, focusing on academic excellence while providing a wide range of experiences. The school's commitment to educating the whole child is demonstrated through its emphasis on social-emotional learning (SEL), which is integrated into the curriculum and daily school life. These efforts aim to balance academic success with fostering students' social and emotional well-being.

School Stakeholders

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

Dry Ridge Elementary engages a wide range of stakeholders, including parents, community members, businesses, local churches, and district-level partners. The school fosters strong relationships with these groups, ensuring their active involvement and collaboration in the school's improvement planning process.

Key stakeholder groups include:

Parents and Families:

Dry Ridge Elementary has an active Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) that plays a significant role in school events, fundraising, and decision-making processes. The school hosts several parent involvement activities, such as Grandparents Day, Veterans Day, Family Literacy Nights, and Kindergarten Camp. These events provide

opportunities for parents and guardians to connect with the school community and actively participate in their children's education.

The school also organizes a Teacher Meet and Greet to build relationships between families and staff members before the school year begins.

School-Based Decision Making Council (SBDM):

The SBDM Council consists of teachers, parents, and school administrators who collaborate to guide school policies and make key decisions. This council plays an essential role in shaping the school's direction and ensuring the voices of stakeholders are heard.

Community Members and Local Businesses:

Strong partnerships with local churches and businesses enhance community involvement. These relationships support initiatives like school events, sponsorships, and resource contributions. Local businesses often collaborate with the school to offer programs that enhance the students' learning experiences and connect them to real-world skills.

Family Resource Center (FRC):

The FRC serves as a vital link between families and the community, offering resources and support for families in need. It also helps coordinate community involvement in school activities and ensures that families have access to necessary services, such as food, clothing, and counseling.

Volunteers:

Several community volunteers work within the school, supporting teachers and students in various capacities, including reading programs, classroom assistance, and school events. These volunteers help foster a welcoming and supportive school environment.

District-Level Engagement:

At the district level, public town hall meetings are held to gather input from stakeholders and communicate important information. These meetings allow for open dialogue between community members and district leaders, ensuring transparency and collaboration in district-wide improvement plans.

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.

The mission statement of Dry Ridge Elementary is: "At Dry Ridge Elementary, we empower students to SOAR by cultivating Self-Awareness, Ownership, Adaptability, and Respect to achieve academic success and become responsible, resilient citizens." This mission, reviewed and updated recently, serves as the foundation for all school programs and initiatives. The school embraces these values through its daily interactions, curriculum, and student expectations.

Core Beliefs and Collective Commitments:

S - Self-Awareness: Students are taught to understand their emotions, practice mindfulness, and think before they act. This value is embedded in classroom management, social-emotional learning (SEL) programs, and individual student goal-setting.

O - Ownership: Taking responsibility for actions and learning is central to the culture at Dry Ridge. Students are encouraged to take initiative in completing tasks, learn from their mistakes, and develop accountability for their education.

A - Adaptability: The school emphasizes a growth mindset, encouraging students to embrace new experiences and adjust to change calmly. Programs are designed to help students persevere, even when faced with challenges.

R - Respect: Respect is a key expectation, guiding students to use kind words and actions, care for their environment, and appreciate differences among peers and staff.

Vision and Values: The school is committed to fostering academic and personal excellence by providing a supportive learning environment where students develop not only cognitive skills but also essential social-emotional abilities.

Program Offerings: Dry Ridge Elementary embodies its mission through a variety of programs and offerings:

Academic Programs: The school utilizes EL for Literacy and Envision for Math, ensuring that academic programs align with its mission of fostering ownership and adaptability. The school also offers gifted and talented programs, individualized education plans (IEPs), and targeted interventions to meet diverse student needs.

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL): SEL is integrated into daily instruction, helping students develop self-awareness, respect, and adaptability.

Extracurricular Activities: Programs such as Family Literacy Nights, Grandparents Day, and Veterans Day celebrations help reinforce these values while engaging the wider community.

Stakeholder Involvement: The development and continuous refinement of the school's mission and programs are collaborative efforts involving multiple stakeholders. Teachers, parents, community members, and students are involved through the School-Based Decision Making (SBDM) Council, the active Parent Teacher Organization (PTO), and various community partnerships. Events like public town hall meetings at the district level, parent involvement activities, and regular volunteer efforts also contribute to this shared commitment.

This collective approach ensures that the school's mission is not only communicated but also lived out in every aspect of its programs and expectations for students.

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.

In the past three years, Dry Ridge Elementary has made significant strides in fostering a growth mindset among its students and staff, as well as laying the foundation for implementing the Grant County Portrait of a Learner at the elementary level. This approach emphasizes key qualities such as adaptability, resilience, and responsible citizenship—values that are embedded in the school's mission to help students SOAR.

Notable Achievements:

Growth Mindset Implementation: Dry Ridge Elementary has successfully integrated the principles of a growth mindset into its daily instruction and school culture. Students are encouraged to embrace challenges, view mistakes as learning opportunities, and persist even when faced with setbacks. This shift has led to noticeable improvements in student resilience and willingness to try new things, which aligns with the school's emphasis on adaptability.

Grant County Portrait of a Learner: The school has begun implementing the Grant County Portrait of a Learner framework at the elementary level, focusing on cultivating skills such as collaboration, creativity, critical thinking, and communication. This initiative prepares students for future success by developing well-rounded individuals who can thrive in both academic and real-world environments.

Community and Family Engagement: Dry Ridge Elementary has expanded its community partnerships and family involvement activities, strengthening its relationship with families, local businesses, and churches. Events such as Grandparents Day, Family Literacy Nights, and Veterans Day celebrations have become more inclusive and successful, further reinforcing the school's commitment to creating a family-friendly environment.

Areas of Improvement in the Last Three Years:

Social-Emotional Learning (SEL): The school has made significant progress in embedding SEL into its curriculum, helping students develop essential skills like self-awareness, ownership, and respect. However, there is room for further integration to ensure all students consistently benefit from SEL lessons and practices across all grade levels.

Inclusive Instruction: Dry Ridge Elementary has enhanced its support for diverse learners, particularly through its gifted and talented programs and special education units. While these improvements have had a positive impact, the school continues to strive for more personalized and differentiated instruction to meet the needs of all students.

Future Areas for Improvement (Next Three Years):

Full Implementation of the Grant County Portrait of a Learner: Over the next three years, Dry Ridge Elementary aims to fully integrate the Grant County Portrait of a Learner framework into all aspects of instruction and school activities. The goal is to ensure that every student develops the skills outlined in the Portrait, such as critical thinking, collaboration, and effective communication, by the time they transition to middle school.

Pritchard Committee Family Friendly School Certification: A key area of focus will be striving for the Pritchard Committee Family Friendly School Certification. This certification will recognize Dry Ridge Elementary as a school that excels in creating a welcoming, supportive, and engaging environment for families. To achieve this, the school will continue to enhance family engagement through increased communication, more family-friendly events, and stronger community partnerships.

Data-Driven Instructional Improvements: The school plans to further improve its use of data to drive instructional decisions, particularly in literacy and math. By analyzing student performance data more effectively, Dry Ridge Elementary aims to implement targeted interventions and differentiated teaching strategies to close achievement gaps and accelerate student growth.

Continuous Focus on Growth Mindset: Dry Ridge Elementary will continue to build on its growth mindset initiatives, ensuring that both students and staff fully embrace this mindset. The school will focus on professional development for teachers, empowering them to instill a culture of perseverance, innovation, and adaptability in their classrooms.

Through these efforts, Dry Ridge Elementary will continue to evolve and meet the needs of its diverse student population, ensuring that students not only achieve academic success but also become responsible, resilient citizens.

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

Attachment Summary

Attachment Name	Description	Associated Item(s)
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