

2019-20 Phase Three: Executive Summary for Schools

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Taylor County High School
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Last Modified: 12/18/2019
Status: Open

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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?

Taylor County High School has an enrollment of just under 825 students in grades 9-12 for the 2019-20 school year. Taylor County is a rural community in Campbellsville, Kentucky. Our district has a newer school. Our new building provides our students the opportunity to learn, work, and perform in a state-of-the-art facility that features student-run businesses, career technical programs, and arts & humanities programs including one of the best equipped auditoriums in the state. Taylor County School District is recognized by the state as a District of Innovation (one of only 13 in the state) which allows the district to continue to explore new pedagogical concepts, including alternative and innovative instructional delivery methods and personalized learning plans. We were also one of the 13 districts to pilot the Non-Traditional Instructional Days that allow students to continue learning even when inclement weather or emergency situations keeps students at home. Our high school students have access to Google Chromebooks in most classrooms, and all students and staff have google drive and google classrooms accounts that provide opportunities for paperless learning. Approximately 51% of our high school students qualify for free/reduced lunch. As a district we are 58% free/reduced lunch this school year. Our student body is approximately 90.98% Caucasian and 9.02% minority students (primarily African-American, Hispanic, and Asian). Our staff is approximately 99% Caucasian as well. Taylor County has a population of approximately 25,420. The median income for Taylor County is \$35,521. Our communities 3 largest employers are Taylor Regional Hospital, Amazon.com, and our school district. The Taylor County School District is the third largest employer in the county, employing nearly 400 full time staff members. Many families also make their living from agriculture and agriculture-related businesses, while other families in our community make their living commuting up to three hours a day to the more metropolitan areas of Louisville, Elizabethtown, and Lexington. Over the past nine years, our district has become a performance based educational system challenging students to work at their individual academic level rather than at the level prescribed by their chronological age. This allows our juniors and seniors to focus on AP and Dual Credit courses, internships, job co ops, and classes at the local university. As a school, we have maintained a focus on college and career readiness and the number of students who have graduated as college and/or career ready has steadily increased over the past eight years. We have had zero dropouts for the past eight years and work hard to put strong supports around our at-risk students. The Professional Learning Community (PLC) is an important feature of Taylor County High School and district wide all students are released at 1:00pm on Fridays to allow for teacher collaboration. All teachers meet weekly in professional learning teams to analyze assessment data and instructional strategies in order to determine student progress and inform future instruction, including interventions and enrichment opportunities. This time is so valuable in designing a curriculum that meets the needs of all of our students.

School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

Our district's mission is "At Taylor County Schools, we to set high expectations and work together to help all students succeed." The school vision is #TCPRIDE: Work Ready. College Ready. Career Ready. Life Ready. The community vision is #TCPRIDE: Partnerships. Performance. Pride.

Together, building a stronger community. It is the priority of TCHS administration and staff to increase the rigor of curriculum, to improve the relevance of the content, and to continue to build strong relationships with our students and parents. We continue to improve the support services that we offer for students, so that their academic, personal, physical, and mental health needs are met in order for all students to find success. Our district is a performance-based district, and students as early as kindergarten are given the opportunity to work at an accelerated pace, if capable, and take courses that challenge them academically. We have students as young as 6th grade taking courses at our high school. At TCHS, we give students choice and voice in their education. While we offer guidance and support, our goal is to graduate independent learners who are prepared to meet the demands of college and the workforce. We strive for every graduate to be career (transition) ready and/or college ready. This is a school-wide focus that comes first when making any decisions about a student's pathway or course of study.

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.

Notable Achievements: a) Student-run businesses: Fancy That Gift Shop, Cardinal Financial Center, Cardinal Kroger, Cardinal Corral Catering, TCHS Greenhouse, T-Signs (art), TCHS Cosmetology, CKPREP (thrift store) b) Strong Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) focused on student achievement. c) TCHS has had zero dropouts for the past eight years. d) TCHS surpassed the state 60.9% transition readiness with a score of 65.2%. We set our goal for the year at 75%. e) Taylor Co FFA has been named a Model of Excellence two years in a row. The first chapter in Kentucky to achieve that honor. f) TCHS was named a school of distinction for the 2016-17 school year. g) Our district was awarded a \$2.3 million grant to renovate the old elementary school into a career center. Construction has started and there will be multiple career courses offered to our students and other local school districts upon completion. h) TCHS offers a full array of Dual Credit and AP options. Many students graduate with more than 30 college credit hours. i) This is our last year as a member of the Advance Kentucky AP grant that provides quality training and resources to our teachers and supports for students to be successful in these rigorous classes. j) TCHS has set a goal of increasing our ACT score of 19 to a 20 to align us to surrounding districts and the state average. k) Our Beta students were recognized for achieving a National Beta School of Distinction status this past year.

Additional Information

CSI/TSI Schools Only: Describe the procedures used to create the school's improvement plan and briefly state the specific efforts to address the causes of low student performance and resource inequities.

N/A

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

Attachment Summary

Attachment Name	Description	Associated Item(s)
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