



2023-2024 Phase One: Executive Summary for
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Montgomery County Schools
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Table of Contents

<u>2023-2024 Phase One: Executive Summary for Districts</u>	3
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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?

Montgomery County whose county seat is Mt. Sterling, is a rural community located on Interstate 64, which is central to the busy commerce of Lexington to the west. It is known as the Gateway to the Eastern Appalachian Region. The county serves as an economic hub for the region, with more than 60% of the workforce residing within the county. It is one of only two counties in the eastern portion of Kentucky in which more people commute into the county to work than leave the county to work elsewhere. According to the 2000 census, Montgomery County workers yield from 21 different counties. The mission of the Montgomery County School district is to serve as a model district by creating and sustaining a top-notch, comprehensive, educational program that serves to promote public schools as the best option for our children and future. The school system is committed to providing leadership throughout the state by being the educational standard of excellence through innovation, leadership development, performance driven schools, and the support and involvement of stakeholders. Our district serves approximately 4,300 students and consists of four elementary schools (PK-5), one middle school (6-8), one alternative school (7-12), 1 site school (7-12) and one high school (9-12). Students are also served by the Area Technology Center, Morehead State University's extended campus in the Clay Community Center, the Maysville Community and Technical College and the 175-acre Chenault Agriculture Education Center. We provide a preschool program, full day kindergarten, and before and after school childcare services. A commitment to education and excellence is represented by our special programs and organizations.

District Stakeholders

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

A district planning committee, representative of the community and the school district is appointed by the superintendent to develop, review, and revise the Comprehensive District Improvement Plan. The committee is made up of the district's stakeholders and includes the following: teachers, principals, council members, school leaders, paraprofessionals, central office administrators, administrators, a board member, classified staff, parents, community representatives, and high school students. As a part of the district planning process, the Board reviews district academic performance on state and local assessments for various student groups. In addition, the plan is posted on the district website for electronic review and feedback from the public.

District's Purpose

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

The Montgomery County School district partnered with Cognia during the 2021-2022 school year along with school district stakeholders including district leadership, board member, administration, teachers, curriculum coaches, students, and parents to develop a common mission, vision, and core beliefs for the district. As the world is facing the challenges and results of the COVID-19 Pandemic, Montgomery County Schools' stakeholders felt it was the right time to revisit our purpose and beliefs about educating students. As a result, the common mission, vision, and core belief statements were developed:

Mission - Our mission is to provide a safe and accepting environment and ensure a student-centered, equitable education with high expectations for ALL students.

Vision - Montgomery County Schools will be the standard of educational excellence in an ever-changing global society.

Core Belief Statements: *High academic expectations and individualized opportunities for ALL students. *Provide opportunities and access for ALL students through culturally responsive teaching. *Provide a safe and accepting environment where all stakeholders are valued regardless of culture and background. *Fostering intentional positive relationships, where every student is well known by at least one adult advocate who supports their educational experience.

Montgomery County Schools exists to ensure that each and every student makes at least one year's worth of growth every year through a combination of high expectations and compassion. Structures built within the district help to contribute to teacher consistency and collaboration. Two planning days built into the schedule paired with district-wide data retreat days, vertical and horizontal team meetings, and strong, focused Professional Learning Communities (PLC) ensure that instruction is consistent and rigorous throughout the district. Key, district partnerships with local civic organizations (Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, Kiwanis Club), local industry, and postsecondary college/universities (Morehead State University at Mt. Sterling, Maysville Community Technical College (MCTC)) provide a unified approach to ensuring all of our students are college and/or career ready when they graduate from Montgomery County High School.

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.

Montgomery County Schools has an intentional focus on data to make and drive all decisions. Notable achievements based on state assessment data include:

- The district was above the state average in students scoring Proficient and Distinguished in the following areas: Elementary Reading and Science; Middle School Reading and Writing; -Montgomery County's ACT Composite is above the state average.

- Montgomery County's graduation rate is above the state average.

Areas of Improvement:

- Increasing the performance of our students in the areas of Proficiency, Separate Academic Indicator, Growth and Transition Readiness scores for students with disabilities.

- Novice reduction will continue to be an area of focus for the district to ensure that all students have made a year's worth of growth.

In addition, the Montgomery County High School Mock Trial team being crowned 2022 state and National Champions and returned to the national tournament in 2023, Montgomery County High School Bass Fishing Team being named State Champions, students attending Craft Academy at Morehead State University and Gatton Academy at Western Kentucky University, numerous Governor's Scholars, and a Regional Champion volleyball team.

Additional Information

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

Communicating and showcasing school assessment data to the community in order to inform and improve participation, instruction, and services, is of paramount importance to Montgomery County Schools. Assessment data is frequently shared with parents, students, and teachers, as we recognize the impact that full disclosure of student data has on instruction. At School Board meetings state assessment data is shared, which is also provided to the community at large, printed in our local newspaper, and posted to our website. These presentations give stakeholders an opportunity to stay abreast of the academic progress schools are making. In addition, each month at Board of Education meetings, a different school is spotlighted and shares school level data, goals, and successes/areas of growth. Within Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) assessment data is shared and analyzed. For example, data from the latest round of common assessments is reviewed and discussed in PLC meetings, along with factors that may have contributed to students' achievement or lack thereof. That data is then used to make instructional decisions. Horizontal planning occurs in Professional Learning Communities to address interventions for student progress. Our district prides itself on being very transparent in terms of disclosing and using data to improve student achievement. We are a data driven school system; our growth and vitality depend upon knowing, using, and improving upon assessment data. Therefore, when

students are assessed, we ensure that data from those assessments is publicized, for the benefit of both our students and our stakeholders. A focus for our district is having high expectations in all we do. With these high expectations, it is crucial to provide support to all areas of our instructional teams to ensure success. The district office supports all schools in various ways including monthly cadres with curriculum coaches, school guidance counselors, and administrators. We ensure throughout the year Instructional Coaches hold a New Teacher Cadre that focuses on ways for new teachers to be successful in their first year to teaching. New Teacher Cadre focuses on topics such as standards-based learning, technology, and new teacher support. In order to improve instruction and offer feedback for continuous improvement of each of our schools, classroom visits are conducted and descriptive feedback is provided to administration.

Attachment Summary

Attachment Name	Description	Associated Item(s)
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