



2023-2024 Phase One: Executive Summary for  
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2023-2024 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools

**Mercer County Senior High School**  
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United States of America

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## 2023-2024 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools

### 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?

Mercer County Senior High School houses grades 9-12 with an enrollment of 760 students. In the past four years, our enrollment is down at MCSH by approximately 80 students. We are located in the rural community of Harrodsburg, Kentucky, with a population of approximately 21,000. According to the latest Census data (2014), 22.1% of the population is under the age of 18 and 18.1% is over the age of 65. Our community is predominantly white (93.3%). Only 18.9% of community members hold a Bachelor's degree or higher and 83.9% are a high school graduate or higher. The per capita money income in the past 12 months is \$24,138 and the median household income is \$45,396. People living below the poverty level is 16.8%. Harrodsburg was recently named the poorest community in the state of Kentucky. Industries within our community include Hitachi, Corning, Toyota Boshoku and Essity. Several of these industries have had major expansions over the past couple of years. We have also lost other industries in the community over the past several years. Many residents work outside of our county in order to support their families with an average commute time of 25.9 minutes. We offer a variety of Advanced Placement (AP) courses in all areas of the content. Students may earn college credit by obtaining a qualifying score on the AP exam. Our number of students taking AP courses has trended down the last couple of years as more students are opting to take more dual credit courses. Through Campbellsville University, Bluegrass Community Technical College, Murray State University and Eastern Kentucky University, our students have dual credit opportunities in the following courses: US History, Principles of Teaching, English, Biology, Agriculture, Communications,

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Psychology, Sociology, Nursing and Math. The state's new dual credit scholarship program has increased our number of students taking dual credit. AP courses offered at MCSHS include AP World History, AP US History, AP Art, AP Language, AP Spanish, and AP Calculus. We offer a broad range of CTE/elective courses in the areas of business, agriculture, art, music, and family and consumer science. Each content area also offers a wide range of elective offerings to our students. Students also have the opportunity to attend the Trailblazer Career Academy and take courses in the areas of carpentry tech, automotive tech, electrical tech, welding tech, office tech, health sciences and allied health. Our students have twenty four (24) minutes daily in an Advisor/Advisee group. Students are with the same teacher and group of students throughout high school during AA. This allows us to build meaningful relationships with our students while they are here at MCSH. Our student population is 81.2% Caucasian, 8% Hispanic, 3.9% African American, 1.0% Asian, and 5.5% two or more races. We have 52.6% of our students on free and or reduced lunch. Our student body is 52.7% male and 47.3% female. MCSH transition to adult life after graduation is: 19.9% of our graduating class continues on to post secondary education; 31.3% work and go to college part time; 1.8% attend a vocational/ technical school; 33.1% enter the workforce; and 3.0% join the military. Students at MCSH receive a diverse offering of courses, activities and extra curricular opportunities. We have approximately twenty-one (21) clubs that meet once a month throughout the year. Students may also participate in approximately eighteen (18) extra curricular sports. Our band program has several offerings as well that include marching band, pep band, jazz ensemble and concert band. Mercer County Senior High School has 45 classroom teachers, 2 counselors, 2 assistant principals and 1 media specialist (librarian). In the past several years, due to budget constraints, we have lost some teaching positions. Our teachers have an average of 13.8 years of teaching

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experience. More than half (56.9%) of our teaching staff hold a Master's Degree; 37.3% have a Rank I, 25.5% have a Bachelor's Degree, 13.7% have a Specialist's Degree, and 3.9% have a Doctorate. The average student-to-teacher ratio is 15:1 and all teachers are highly qualified in the content area in which they are teaching. Our mission statement reflects "Preparing every student to successfully compete in every endeavor, at every level, and in every stage of life. " We must prepare our students academically, intellectually, and emotionally to become productive citizens within our community upon graduation from high school. We believe that a clean, safe, positive, and stimulating environment creates an inviting place where pride and ownership encourage all members of our community to learn. We take great pride in our school and all members of this community are encouraged to take responsibility for their learning and the environment within our school. To help remind everyone of what is expected, we have compiled expectations and they are taught and re-taught at varying points during the school year. These expectations are Motivated, Competitive, Safe, and Honest.

This past year our composite ACT score was a 18.76. We need to continue to focus on moving

student achievement in all areas, but especially our gap groups. We are working on this by looking at curriculum, instruction and assessment in all areas. Another area of improvement that we will focus on is the overall percentage of students who are graduating as college or career ready. Although the percentage has steadily increased over the past 4 years, we need to continue to improve the overall postsecondary readiness score.

### School Stakeholders

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

The stakeholders of Mercer County Senior High School include parents, guardians, staff, and community members of the Mercer County community. One of the goals of Mercer County Senior High School is to improve communication with students, parents, and the community in order to make them aware of upcoming events and to enhance community involvement to help foster a positive school climate and culture. Some of the strategies include daily social media posts, infinite campus messages sent out as needed to parents and students regarding announcements and events at MCSHS, announcements sent via google classroom, school website updated regularly, digital sign at the entrance to MCSHS updated weekly, open house at the beginning of the school year, career fair and college fair in the fall, academic awards ceremonies, scheduling parent nights, and scholarship seminars. Parents and community members are always welcome at the MCSHS School Based Decision Making meetings and there are 2 parent members on the school council.

### 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.

Mercer County Senior High School's purpose is to teach our students to think critically and solve real-world problems in order to prepare them for either college-level coursework or a successful transition into the world of work. Our school's mission statement refers to the concept of preparing our students to successfully compete in every endeavor, at every level, and in every stage of life. We want them to be proficient, productive, professional and proactive in order to be competitive in a changing world. We must prepare our students to be competitive in the world they will be entering upon graduation from MCSHS. Mercer County Senior High School embodies this purpose through our program offerings for students. We use Advisor / Advisee groups daily and club meeting time monthly to provide our students the opportunity to explore different activities. We offer multiple AP courses and multiple dual-credit courses through Campbellsville University, Murray State University, and Eastern Kentucky University. Our students can take courses through the Campbellsville University program that allows them to take college level courses

at the Campbellsville-Harrodsburg campus. The tuition rate is drastically reduced for these course offerings. We offer our students a variety of career pathway options and our students have the additional option of taking vocational courses at the Trailblazer Career Academy for part of the day. We provide our students with multiple opportunities to demonstrate Postsecondary Readiness, including the ACT and skills certificate assessments. Preparing our students for college and career is one of our most important jobs as a high school. Mercer County Senior High School also embodies this purpose through both our student expectations for behavior and work in the classroom. We have building-wide procedures to help keep our students safe throughout the day and create a common set of classroom expectations for behavior. All of our students are Motivated, Competitive, Safe, and Honest.

At the same time, we try to provide privileges to our students, such as cell phone usage during the school day and

keeping the dress code appropriate but not too restrictive. In addition, we are embracing the opportunity that technology provides for student learning by providing our students a chrome book to use at school and take home. In summary, we try to treat our students as

young adults and place the burden of responsibility on their shoulders while continuing to provide additional support and resources when they need some help.

### 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.

Mercer County Senior High School has worked diligently in recent years to improve student learning in order to increase student achievement in all areas.

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In the 2021-22 school year, the graduation rate was 98.3%.

During the last three years, the school district has made a commitment to increasing rigor in the classroom and

provided professional development hours to help with intentional planning and questioning techniques. In the last few

years, the number of AP students taking exams has dropped due to more students

taking Dual Credit courses. However, we still had 51% of the students taking AP

exams scored a 3,4, or 5. A few other notable achievements during the 2022-23

school year included: Several state and regional winners in FCCLA, one of the top

donating high schools in the state of Kentucky for the Central Kentucky Blood

Center blood drives for the 10th consecutive year, FCCLA, FFA, FBLA, FFA and HOSA

state winners/officers in several areas, 5 Governor's Scholars selections, 1

Governor's School for the Arts selection, 1 Governor's School for Entrepreneurs selection, 1 Gatton Academy selection, 3 students who won 1st place in District Governor's Cup competitions, 2 All-State Theatre members, 1 All-State Band member, 1 baseball player chosen as the Gatorade player of the year in Kentucky, 11 members of the ACT 31+ club,

girls basketball district and region champions, boys archery 4th in state championship competition,

baseball district champions, , girls track regional champions and 3rd in state championship meet, boys track regional champions and 2A state

champions, and 9 individual state track champions. In the next three years, there

are several areas of improvement for Mercer County Senior High School. On college

readiness exams, we want to be above the state and national average in all areas on

the ACT. We would like to increase our composite scores by 1.0-2.0 points to reach a

school goal of 20.0 plus. Through an increased focus on career pathways and

industry certificates, as well as strengthening our interventions for students not

meeting college benchmarks, we want to significantly raise our overall percentage

of Post secondary Readiness students. Mathematics is a major focus of improvement for

our high school and the implementation of more direct instruction in our math



classes will help our students critically analyze their own work and solve problems in a group structure. We must equip our students with the ability to problem solve and think critically in order to prepare them for such an advanced, technological world they will be competing in after graduation. Finally, we will focus on core instruction in order to prepare our students for the accountability assessments each year.

#### 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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