



2024-2025 Phase One: Executive Summary -Waco Elementary School

2024-2025 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools

Waco Elementary School
Venessa Coner-Worley
359 Waco Loop
Waco, Kentucky, 40385
United States of America

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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?

Waco Elementary School is located in Waco, Kentucky, the far eastern portion of Madison County. We serve a small, rural community that is extremely tight knit and house grades Pre-K thru 5th. Our current total enrollment is 425 with 100 percent receiving free lunch. Free lunch for every student is funded through a program for low-income communities; Community Eligibility Program. The current percentage of students whom have been identified as needing specially designed instruction is at 25 percent. The ethnicity of our total population is 87 percent White and 13 percent Hispanic or Other. The largest and closest city to Waco Elementary School is Richmond, Kentucky. Waco is approximately 8 miles from Richmond, Kentucky. The 2024 estimated population of Richmond, Kentucky is 38, 030. Richmond is comprised of 87.1 percent Caucasian Americans, 8.5 percent African Americans and 4 percent Other. The average salary for Richmond, Kentucky is \$64,819, median salary is \$53,191 with a salary range from \$28,439 to \$200,000. (Richmond, KY salaries are collected from government agencies and companies. Each salary is associated with a real job position. Richmond, KY salary statistics is not exclusive and is for reference only.) The average travel time of workers who commute to work is 20 minutes. In 2018, 36.9 percent reported they owned their home. The percent of people who live in their home for more than one year is 68.5. Richmond is home to over 1,931 Veterans. 84.2 percent of the population has a high school diploma or higher while 28.2 percent has a Bachelor's degree or higher. In 2012 the school celebrated our 100 Year Anniversary by hosting a grand celebratory event for our community. Waco Elementary has been home to many families for multiple generations and is still housed in the original location with portions of the original building in use today. The faculty and staff of Waco are all highly qualified with 50 percent of the teaching staff holding a Master's Degree and 25 percent holding a Rank I certification. Two staff members are National Board Certified Teachers. Paraprofessionals are also highly qualified, having either completed a college degree, some college hours or having passed the Kentucky Paraprofessional exam successfully .Our community is very supportive of the school. Parent representatives assisted with creating our vision and mission statements and continue to be invited to participate in the decision making process. The total number of volunteer hours for our last normal school year was approximately 3,900. Since COVID, we are averaging about 700 volunteer hours per year. Waco Elementary School has a large number of students being raised by grandparents and we are working closely to support those families and their specific needs. Annually, we host a Back-To-School night and a parent information night to help parents/guardians/ grandparents understand the expectations and strategies to help their children at home. Our Parent Teacher Organization provides a large support system to our school and teachers. Student performance events during PTO meetings showcase different grade levels. PTO Basketball Game Night and Fall Festival are huge events at our school with most students and teachers

participating. These games provide a healthy and active event for staff and students while raising money for classroom use. We value parent, guardian and community support. Our school currently uses iReady for our universal screener. iReady is a single K-12 adaptive Diagnostic, administered three times per year, for reading and mathematics which pinpoints student needs down to the sub-skill level, and measures ongoing progress. This monitoring shows whether students are on track to achieve end-of-year targets. Teachers also administer Fountas and Pinnell assessments for reading and Add+VantageMR assessments for math. Curriculum has been revised in order to integrate the Common Core Standards; national standards adopted by the state of Kentucky. In addition, the school-wide reading program is based on the work of Fountas and Pinnell and incorporates the use of an individual reading assessment, as well as a multi-level book room. Staff is using state standards and assessment data to drive the instruction in all content area classrooms. Flexible grouping is visible throughout all grade levels in Reading and heterogeneously grouped in Math in order for students to receive instruction at their individual level of academic ability. Professional learning communities (PLC) meet routinely in order to best utilize resources and differentiate instruction based on data analysis results. Our school is transitioning from a place about teaching to a place of learning.

School Stakeholders

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

Our school vision statement is: All students transitioning from Waco Elementary School to middle school will be performing at or above grade level benchmarks in reading and in math. Our school mission statement is: Waco Elementary staff strives to create a challenging learning environment through appropriate instruction for individual differences and learning styles. We work to create a safe, nurturing and supportive environment where students can build self-confidence. We are committed to having parents, educators and community members involved in students' learning. Parent and classified representatives collaborated with certified staff to update and revise our vision and mission statements during the 2016-2017 school year. In 2017, the staff added the following belief statements to our philosophical statements. Belief Statements: At Waco Elementary School we believe: • That students are the number one priority • In an environment that is safe, orderly and protects instructional time • That learning should be fun, challenging, hands-on, minds on to ensure success for all • That moral and ethical responsibility will promote strong citizenship in our school community • In parent and community involvement. Our focus as a school is to focus on individual student and professional growth. We work hard to provide our students with the best possible education we can. Our teachers collaborate in grade-level Professional Learning Communities to discuss curriculum, instruction, assessment and analysis results in order to optimize the potential for student growth. Data is also evaluated in order to provide all teachers the information needed to respond to non-mastery of skills and allow for re-teaching to mastery level. Waco Elementary School values each individual student and the diversity they bring to our school. We provide as many opportunities as possible to all for individual growth. Our students may choose to

participate in extra-curricular activities such as: Boys/Girls on the Run, Line Dancing, Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP), Drama, Fellowship of Christian Athletes, Cardinal Choir, Chess and/or Academic Team. These programs are in addition to our seasonal performances conducted by our Related Arts Team. Waco staff also encourages and provides incentives for participation in Madison County Schools sponsored events like the Triple Crown Event (5K run) and our local 4-H Program.

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.

Our school is currently 1 to 1 matching with digital devices. We have multiple interventionists to support our work; Mullins, Holsinger, Turner, Blankenship, Boulden, Reid and Gabbard. We have spent approximately \$3,000.00 to purchase literature for our library and guidance counselor to make our school more inclusive to students who are struggling with diversity and social/emotional needs. Another area to showcase is the community support we receive from local businesses, churches, educational organizations to promote learning.

An area of growth for our school is that we are transitioning from a school about parent involvement to a parent engagement school. Parental engagement represents a greater commitment, ownership of action than parental involvement within educational settings such as early learning and childcare settings or schools. As a team, we have decided not to apply for the certification due to the number of requirements and time restraints; however, we do plan to meet once a month as a team to continue implementing initiatives to move our school into that parent engagement mindset.

Our instructional focus for the 2024-2025 school years will be implementation and curriculum study. In addition to our instructional focus we have all adopted a code of ethics goal for the school: continue to grow and build a positive culture and climate, being more professional, celebrating wins and complimenting each other.

We will also align with the district to focus on the following growth area: PLC, student engagement, early literacy and math, building leadership capacity and to create an inclusive environment for all.

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.

Waco Elementary School continues to make gains with our data points and close achievement gaps. We have worked extremely hard to develop, foster and continue to strengthen our professional learning communities. We have worked hard to have a growth mind-set, cultivate and grow our climate and culture and build strong grade level teams. We have a building full of teacher leaders who are able to mentor, provide feedback to other staff members and to lead sessions for our school.

I have attached data below from our first iReady data point.

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)
 Beginning of the year data point	iReady reading	•
 Beginning of the year data point 2	iReady data point	•
 KSA data	KSA data	•