



2025-2026 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools_09092025_09:58

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Middlesboro Elementary School
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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?

Middlesboro Elementary School is part of the Middlesboro Independent School District located in Middlesboro, Kentucky. Middlesboro is a small town with a population of 8,784 residents nestled in the Appalachian Mountains of Southern Kentucky, located on the border of Tennessee and Virginia near the Cumberland Gap National Park, a well-recognized landmark. Middlesboro Elementary School encompasses five grade levels from Kindergarten to 4th grade, plus preschool. As of September 25th, this school has a current enrollment of 418 (K-4) students consisting of 210 males and 208 females, and 74 preschool students for a school total of 494 students. 86.2% white, 4.7% black, 1.8% Hispanic, 0.0%, Asian 0.2%, American Indian, 0.2% Pacific Islander, and 6.9% two or more races. At this time, Middlesboro Elementary School has 104 students with an active IEP. Currently, Middlesboro Elementary School, as well as the entire Middlesboro School District, participates in the "Community Eligibility Options" feeding program. This program provides all students with free breakfast and lunch, without the addition of this program, 83.% of our students qualify for free meals, and are classified as Economically Disadvantaged. -Middlesboro Elementary School also participates in the "Fresh Fruits and Vegetables" program which supplies each student with a fresh fruit or vegetable snack each day. There are 32 certified teachers on staff, comprised of 7 males and 25 females. The average household income in Middlesboro is \$34,349 with a poverty rate of 28.83%. The median house value is \$88,700. -Middlesboro Elementary School has two computer labs in the library/media center consisting of 60 Chromebox computers. Each grade level has technology not only within the classroom, but also mobile carts that they share. This provides all students access to a chromebook while at school. All classrooms are equipped with Aver interactive board technology as well. -Middlesboro Elementary School currently has an attendance rate of 95.465% for the current school year (2025). Middlesboro Elementary School has 32 full time equivalent teachers. Middlesboro Elementary School has 5 special education teachers, 3 interventionist, 1 resource teacher and 2 MSD special education teachers, as well as three special area teachers: STEAM, Physical Education and Performing Arts. We currently have one full time librarian/media specialist on staff, one full time guidance counselor and a Family Resource Center within the school. -Middlesboro Elementary School is an accredited school by AdvanceEd (formerly the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). The biggest hurdle for this school is the current shortage of substitute teachers, bus drivers, and other classified workers in the school district. Also, the school has seen an influx of students moving between local school districts and students entering/enrolling who have not attended school in the past.

School Stakeholders

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

At Middlesboro Elementary School, students, staff, parents, and community members work collaboratively to support the success of both the school and its students.

The school benefits from an active Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) that organizes fundraising activities and school events, playing a vital role in building a strong school community. Parent surveys are conducted multiple times throughout the school year to gather valuable feedback, and the Parent-School Compact is reviewed and discussed during Back to School Night each fall.

To ease the financial burden on families, all school supplies are provided by the district, so parents are not required to purchase any materials.

Middlesboro Elementary also hosts a family engagement event called "Building a Jacket Night," where parents meet with teachers and learn about the academic standards and expectations necessary for their child's success throughout the school year.

Parent/Teacher Conferences are held during every grading period, ensuring open communication between home and school. Additionally, the school's Family Resource and Youth Services Center (FRYSC) sponsors multiple family and community activity nights throughout the year, fostering deeper relationships among students, families, and staff.

Through the support of several grants, Middlesboro Elementary partners with a variety of organizations to provide meaningful outreach and engagement for students—starting from birth and continuing throughout their elementary years. These partnerships include:

- Partners for Rural Impact
- Full Service Community Schools
- Innovative Approaches to Literacy
- STOP Violence in Schools
- AmeriCorps
- Save the Children

These organizations play a vital role in enhancing educational opportunities, supporting student growth, and strengthening the school's connection with the community.

School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and supplementary 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 mission, "Where Leading and Learning Begin: Success Starts Here," reflects our dedication to preparing students for both college and career readiness. This preparation is supported by a variety of strategies and activities embedded in high-quality instruction across the curriculum, as documented in our Comprehensive School Improvement Plan (CSIP).

Our Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) program promotes a culture centered around three core values: Be Responsible, Be Respectful, and Be Safe. These guiding principles help create a supportive and productive learning environment for all students.

In collaboration with the school's Family Resource and Youth Services Center (FRYSC) Director and the Director of Full Service Community Schools, Middlesboro Elementary has developed a number of student groups that foster leadership, collaboration, and engagement. These include:

- Student Council
- LEGO League
- Running Club
- Leadership Club
- Mail Crew
- Tech Team

These groups have made a meaningful and positive impact on our students by building confidence, encouraging teamwork, and nurturing important life skills.

At Middlesboro Elementary, we believe that success truly starts here.

Notable Achievements

Describe the school's notable achievements in the last three years.

Over the past two years, Middlesboro Elementary School has made significant strides in academic performance, reflecting our unwavering commitment to student learning and achievement.

Our overall performance index has shown consistent growth, with notable gains in core subjects including reading, math, and science. As a result of this progress, the school's state color rating improved last year from Orange to Yellow. Based on

internal data and recent performance trends, we anticipate another positive change in our rating when KSA (Kentucky Summative Assessment) results are released.

These achievements underscore the dedication of our teachers, staff, students, and families in creating a high-quality learning environment focused on continuous improvement.

In addition, Middlesboro Elementary has taken a major step forward in preparing students for the future by beginning the process of becoming nationally STEM certified through the National Institute for STEM Education (NISE). This certification will further strengthen our curriculum and reinforce our focus on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics across grade levels.

Areas of Improvement

Describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

Despite recent academic gains, reading and math remain key areas of focus for improvement. While we are encouraged by the progress made, Middlesboro Elementary School recognizes that sustained, targeted efforts are essential to fully close achievement gaps in these foundational subjects.

We remain committed to implementing effective instructional strategies, providing timely interventions, and leveraging data to ensure every student reaches their full potential in reading and math.

As Middlesboro Elementary School continues its journey of academic improvement, our primary focus will be on:

- Continued novice reduction in reading and math
- Decreasing the number of apprentice-level students in science
- Increasing the number of students performing at proficient and distinguished levels across all core subjects

To achieve these goals, the school will implement a multi-faceted strategy that includes:

- Targeted programs in reading and math
- Personalized learning plans to meet individual student needs
- Additional tutoring opportunities to support struggling learners
- Enhanced professional development for teachers to strengthen instructional effectiveness
- Data-driven instructional practices for informed decision-making in the classroom

- Expanded academic interventions through the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS)

The overall goal is to reach a performance index of 70 or higher, creating a learning environment that supports continued growth, academic excellence, and student success at all levels.

Additional Information

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

Thanks to the support of the local school board, Middlesboro Elementary School has been able to maintain a full-time Curriculum Coach, who works alongside teachers in the classroom every day. This role provides critical support not only to teachers but also to students and families through both curriculum guidance and family engagement activities.

Through the Innovative Approaches to Literacy (IAL) Grant, the school also benefits from a full-time Reading/Literacy Coach. This coach plays a key role in strengthening home and community relations, supporting in-class instruction, offering professional development opportunities, and securing funding for literacy resources. The grant has also funded two full-time Reading Tutors through the AmeriCorps program, further enhancing individualized support for students.

Additionally, the IAL grant partners with the Save the Children Foundation to provide early childhood support for families with children from birth to age four, helping prepare them for success in preschool and beyond.

The school also benefits from the efforts of Partners for Rural Impact, which has initiated a Full Service Community Schools program. This initiative emphasizes community involvement, family engagement, and parent assistance to foster a well-rounded support system for our students.

To support enrichment and academic growth, after-school programs are offered for third and fourth graders, and we continue to provide opportunities for student leadership and achievement through our Academic Team and Beta Club.

Attachment Summary

Attachment Name	Description	Associated Item(s)
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