



Executive Summary

Hillard Collins Elementary School

Boone County

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Introduction

Every school has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school stays faithful to its vision. Many factors contribute to the overall narrative such as an identification of stakeholders, a description of stakeholder engagement, the trends and issues affecting the school, and the kinds of programs and services that a school implements to support student learning.

The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the school community will have a more complete picture of how the school perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

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?

Collins Elementary is a school serving 850 children Preschool- 5th Grades. The school is located in Boone County, in the city of Florence, Kentucky, a suburb of Cincinnati, Ohio and one of 14 elementary schools in Boone County. Of the 850 students enrolled, 85% are on free or reduced lunch, qualifying our school as full school Title 1. Collins is a very diverse school with 24% of the population of Hispanic/Latino Origin and another 5% of the population of other cultures originating from outside of the United States. We have 17 different languages that are spoken fluently by many families and students. We have a high transient rate, but the school and adjoining communities have strengthened their resolve to develop educational opportunities that will increase all students' chances for successful achievement of district, state and national goals.

To meet the needs of our students we have 55 certified teachers all working within their certification, 100% Highly Qualified Classification with an average of about 10 years of teaching experience. Additional teachers are purchased to lower the number of teacher to student ratio and provide all day Kindergarten.

To help meet the language needs in the building we have a blended language program. Students whose primary language is English receive Spanish instruction with a certified teacher along with work using the Rosetta Stone Technology. Students whose primary language is not English will have English Language Instruction with a certified teacher along with work using Rosetta Stone Technology.

Our school geographically is within the boundaries of the city of Florence with a portion of it in the zip code area of Walton, KY. Our families reside in privately owned homes, rental homes, many apartment complexes and some trailer parks which provides for self- owned units and rentals.

Over the last three years our population has continued to increase with families moving into our school's district.

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.

School Mission Statement

The mission of the staff and community of Collins Elementary School is

- * To foster academic growth for all students
- * To nurture a respect for others and an acceptance of differences in people
- * To develop the ability to accept responsibility for their own actions
- * To peacefully solve problems

Vision for Collins Elementary

The vision for Collins Elementary School for the 21st century is to provide the opportunity for faculty, staff, parents and community to develop, through communication, a sense of ownership, spirit, and pride in the school. Not only must students be prepared academically; they must be nurtured with a sense of cultural awareness which includes an appreciation of the arts, of tolerance, of diversity, healthy living, career studies and the community.

The mission and vision statements were developed by the Curriculum and Instruction SBDM Committee and then reviewed by the grade level teams before being adopted. The vision and mission statements were then published in different school documents for all stakeholders to have knowledge of them.

Collins is working with students by focusing on Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports. The students' and staffs' foundation for this support is:

Respect
Responsible
Safe

Collins' Comets SOAR to success!

We can Show RESPECT

We are Organized and RESPONSIBLE

We are Always SAFE

We are Ready to LEARN

Students are actively involved in their learning through hands-on experiences, flexible-grouping, cooperative learning activities and experiences that promote intellectual, social, emotional and physical growth across the curriculum and grade levels. Students are challenged to excel at high levels and expand their learning. Many opportunities to explore real life experiences are offered and include: COSI, Living History Day, D.A.R.E., 4-H. In-house performance events including the Symphony, Playhouse in the Park, Madcap Puppets, Kids on the Block and Field trip experiences including: Cincinnati Zoo, Community Based Instruction, Cincinnati Museum of History, Frankfort, Florence City Building, Camp Carlisle and Taft Theater. We also offer extended school opportunities to our students, including transportation, to meet students' academic needs.

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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.

Students have received some individual and group honors, opportunities and involvement opportunities in the last three years.

State Contest Results: Three students won state level awards in the Special Olympics Art Contest. For the past two years we have had a Legislative Page in the House of Representative and one in the Senate. Our Academic Team has won the Hume Award for sportsmanship at District meets twice. They have also been runner -up in District competition with many winners in single subject assessments.

Awards & Recognitions: Collins was recognized in their commitment to Service Learning by being named a School of Distinction for the 6th year in a row through Children Inc. Students are formally recognized with NAESP Citizenship and Presidential Academic Awards. Student assemblies recognize students for achievement in academics, character skills, attendance and Accelerated Reading accomplishments.

Two teachers have been recognized for their outstanding teaching by receiving the Golden Apple Award sponsored by Scripps Howard in Northern Kentucky.

Collins Elementary has received the Target Community grant this year to help engage fathers through the Watch D.O.G.S. program. This will allow our fathers to come in and serve as role models to our students and engage in the learning going on in the building. There is a writing component to the program that also focuses heavily on responding to text and a component to be set up similar to writer's workshop. Teachers took part in a book study, *The Next Steps in Guided Reading Focused Assessments and targeted lessons for Helping Every Student Become a Better Reader*, and are now applying this work to the books implemented by the program. We are beginning to research Math best practices and Math will be the next subject area we focus on in the next two years to adopt a new program.

Additional research-based instructional strategies are being implemented to address: multiple intelligences, individual learning needs and styles along with tying student work to real-life experiences. Each week grade level teams plan, disaggregate data, analyze student work and develop strategies for student academic success focusing on reviewing, re-teaching and extending the students' learning. Teachers also are taking part in instructionally focused professional development focused on the Next Generation Science Standards, Science Framework, Understanding by Design for Primary and ELA development.

All students are formally assessed in reading and math a minimum of 3 times per year in grades K-5. Additionally, students indicating more intensive needs are assessed additionally to help lead the educational staff in determining individual learning needs and instructional practices needed for these students' success. A very extensive tiered Response to Intervention Program is in place for reading, math and behavior. Students whose learning is accelerated have their instructional needs met through flexible grouping and team teaching. English Language Learner educators are on staff to better meet the needs of our ELL students and their families. Volunteer programming also encourages parents and community members' active participation in the educational process such as: One to One Reading, Whiz Kids, National Junior and Senior Honor Societies, and Junior Achievement. Extended school programming offers tutoring and enrichment in various areas such as: reading, writing, math, technology, physical activities, career awareness, and arts and humanities so that students are able to explore their many talents and reach their academic potential.

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Additional Information

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

Collins allocates Title 1 funding to support a full day kindergarten program to our families. This allows our students to gain more base knowledge to better serve them in the Kentucky Academic Standards and provide instructional opportunities they have not taken part of before entering school as indicated through the Brigance Kindergarten Readiness assessment.

Tutoring opportunities along with enrichment opportunities are offered before and after school in the spring of the year along with a 3-4 week summer program. This program includes both remediation and extension in the academic content areas of reading and math along with enrichment in the areas of Arts, Humanities and Practical Living.

We offer a summer reading program that runs for one week off site at one of our school's apartment complexes for our students.

Extracurricular Activities: A variety of activities are and have been offered at Collins including: Academic Team, Future Problem Solving, Odyssey of the Mind, Intramural Girls' and Boys' basketball, cheer leading, Girls on the Run, Student Leadership Team Grades 3-5, Collins Caring Companion Programming, Student Technology Leadership Program, Safety Patrol, Energy Team. Clubs that have been included are: Chorus, Art, and Technology.

Evening activities are varied, but most are designed for the parent and the child to learn and enjoy learning together. We have regular Family Story Time nights, annual Education Game Nights, Born Learning Academies for Parents, Pumpkins with Kindergarten, ABC's of Parenting, annual school dances, and talent show.

Collins' staff is continually celebrating the students and their successes. Part of our Positive Behavior Intervention System has built in reinforcements for demonstrating their on-going work with respect, responsibility and safety. PTA is also helping to reinforce students through bi-monthly Student of the Month Awards given during the PTA meetings. We also quarterly celebrate reading with Accelerated Reader awards, life skill - Comet awards, recognizing perfect attendance and acknowledging and celebrating academic achievement with Honor Roll and Proficient and Distinguished state assessment levels.

Project -based learning with embedded Service Learning is a basis for good citizenship instruction that ties the students' on-going instruction with projects to support others through their service. Service projects have included but are not limited to Comets in the Community, Supporting our Troops in various ways, the local animal shelter, Jump Rope for Heart, and making blankets for the Women's' Crisis Center.

As a staff, we strive to offer a well- balanced, caring, learning opportunity to the whole child.