

Phase III: Executive Summary for Schools_10202017_11:49

Phase III: Executive Summary for Schools

Larry A. Ryle High School

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Phase III: Executive Summary for Schools

Executive Summary

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?

Larry A. Ryle High School is a public, four-year high school located in Union, Kentucky and named after Larry A. Ryle, a beloved teacher, principal, and superintendent. Ryle High School is the largest of four high schools in the Boone County School district, which is the third largest and fastest growing school district in Kentucky. Located in Northern Kentucky, Boone County is one of eight counties that comprise the Greater Cincinnati MSA. Boone County's location in the Cincinnati Metropolitan Area and its system of highways have made Boone County a popular place for commuters to live. The county provides a diverse mix of urbanization surrounding its three cities of Florence, Union, and Walton. Boone County is the fourth largest county in Kentucky in terms of population and is the second fastest growing county in Kentucky. Since its founding in 1992, Larry A. Ryle High School has developed a tradition and reputation for academic excellence. Year in and year out, the students of Ryle High School score in the top ten in Kentucky on the ACT test and this past year again earned a Distinguished rating, the highest in the state's Unbridled Learning assessment program. Ryle was also named of US News' Best High Schools in 2013. Over the past 12 years, Larry A. Ryle High School has been selected six times as one of America's Best High Schools by Newsweek magazine, most recently in 2010. One unique characteristic of our school is the continuing tradition that student graduating classes always tend to outperform the classes that have come before them. This notion of continuous improvement, of always "raising the bar," is something in which our students, faculty, and community take great pride. Challenges facing Ryle High School are the economic diversity in the community and the achievement gap that is present between all students and identified subgroups of students with disabilities (11% of overall population) and students enrolled in the federal free/reduced lunch programs (25% of overall population). The economic diversity may be described as the significant income gap between families in lower income groups and those in upper income groups. Another significant challenge facing Larry A. Ryle High School is that of school funding. The residents of Boone County take great pride in their schools and community; however, many feel that formula for state funding of education places Boone County at a serious disadvantage. For example, Boone County Schools receives \$7,659 per pupil compared with the state average of \$8,833 per pupil. This difference in per pupil spending ranks the Boone County Schools 162nd out of 174 Kentucky school districts. Larry A. Ryle High School has a current population of 1,892 students, which is 82.82% White not of Hispanic Origin. The 120 certified personnel working at Ryle have an average of 12.7 years of experience, overall 81% of the faculty have earned a Master's degree or higher. Several members of the faculty have recently earned great distinction: in 2008 a Ryle teacher was named a Siemens Award Winner for Teaching Advance Placement and in 2010 a Ryle teacher was named the Kentucky Teacher of the Year. Additionally, 41 classified personnel serve Ryle High School in the areas of custodial, cafeteria, paraeducators, and office staff. Boone County, Kentucky has a population of 118,579 people, 90.5% of the population has earned a high school diploma and 29.6% has earned a Bachelor's degree or higher. The median household income for the 41,683 households in Boone County is \$68,369. Unfortunately, specific data is not readily available for the portion of Boone County that comprises the attendance district of Ryle High School. The Boone County Schools is the highest performing large diverse district in the state of Kentucky. A staff of over 2,600 serves approximately 20,000 students in one of the fastest growing areas of the state. The district includes four high schools, five middle schools, and fourteen elementary schools; as well as an area technology center, adult learning center, and alternative center for education. All 23 schools were fully accredited in the spring of 2012 by Advanced Ed. The Boone County Board

of Education sets high standards of performance with a 13 year measurable goal of Career and College and Life Readiness for each graduate of Boone County Schools. This goal permeates each campus and exemplifies the work of the dedicated students, staff, and teachers of the district. Home to 82 National Board Certified Teachers and to the 2009 and 2011 Ashland Teacher of the Year, the Boone County Schools strives to ensure that each child has the support necessary to be successful.

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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.

The mission statement of Larry A. Ryle High School states: Ryle High School is dedicated to the development of the entire Ryle community. It is our goal to provide the skills for Ryle students to excel in and contribute to the leadership, technology, citizenship, and character of the whole Ryle community. Ryle is committed to focusing the energy, talent, experience, and knowledge of the entire Ryle school and surrounding community towards its greatest asset, our youth. To achieve that mission, Larry A. Ryle High School has two overarching goals: To prepare all students to be college, career, or military ready upon their graduation and to have all students perform on grade level in terms of literacy and numeracy skills. Informally, it is our goal to prepare all students for success in "grade 13" or life after high school, whether it be college or other post-secondary education, the military, or the workforce. To be college and career ready, students take a rigorous base curriculum and are encouraged to accelerate their learning in honors level or Advanced Placement courses. The faculty and administration of Larry A. Ryle High School has been committed to functioning as a Professional Learning Community for the past 10 years. Teachers are members of one or more Instructional Learning Teams, which are essentially teams of teachers that teach a common course. The goal of these teams is to work closely together to improve student learning by aligning course content, developing and implementing common assessments, and analyzing the results of the assessments to assist students as needed and to review and improve instructional technique.

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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.

Larry A. Ryle High School has many notable achievements. The past five years Ryle has earned the classification of DISTINGUISHED on its school report card, which corresponds to a top 10% ranking in the state's Unbridled Learning assessment and accountability system. Furthermore, in 2015 and 2013, our school was ranked in the top 5% of schools and earned the classification of DISTINGUISHED: A SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION. In 2015-16 and 2012-13, Ryle was also named one of U.S. News' Best High Schools. Our students have consistently scored in the top 10 schools in Kentucky on ACT in the last five years. There have also been 28 students who have been selected to the prestigious Kentucky Governor's Scholars program as well as two students selected to the Kentucky Governor's School for the Arts program. In 2010, an English teacher at Ryle, Durrell "Butch" Hamm was named the Kentucky Teacher of the Year. Another English teacher, Cher Caldwell, was named a finalist for the same award in 2010. In 2008, a Ryle mathematics teacher, Carol Kanabroski, was named one of two Siemens Award Winners in Kentucky for Advanced Placement Teaching. We will continue to strive for excellence in all areas

and to increase our number of students who are achieve College and Career Readiness. In the next three years, we plan to have completed a true re-alignment (both horizontally across classes and vertically across grade levels) of our school curriculum. Our Instructional Learning Teams are in the process of completing this work and efforts have begun to vertically align with our feeder schools in the school district.

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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.

Larry A. Ryle High School is most proud of the accomplishments of its students, staff, and faculty that are earned as we strive to provide educational opportunities in academics, leadership, technology, citizenship, and character. Over the past 26 years, Ryle has become a significant part of the community's identity. This school community has become very close-knit as parents, teachers, students, and staff value and take great pride in the accomplishments of everyone associated with the school. We believe that success is truly a joint venture between parents, students, and the school. Another point of pride for Larry A. Ryle High School is the culture of success that is evident in nearly every area. Students challenge themselves by taking more rigorous classes and by striving to reach the high expectations set by the school, their parents, and their Ryle predecessors. Teachers challenge themselves by working to improve the performance of their students and of themselves. Through their Instructional Learning Teams, the faculty strives to set a high, consistent, and well-defined standard of curriculum, instruction, and assessment. Outside of the classroom, students and faculty alike work to achieve excellence in school activities. Whether it be athletics or co-curricular competitions, Ryle students do not want to be good, they want to be the best. This expectation and desire of high performance also fuels the strong school spirit within Ryle. Students proudly wear their orange and black and the student support at school events is very apparent. A culture of service and giving has been developed at Ryle through the efforts of students, faculty, parents, and community members. Each year students are required to complete 5 hours of community service in an effort to teach the value of giving and sacrifice for others. In fact, the Ryle Class of 2017 performed a total of 14,000 hours of community service through school and community organized events. Nearly all Ryle athletic, co-curricular, and extra-curricular organizations have embedded community service activities into their programs. Fundraising for philanthropic causes by student groups and organizations during the 2016-2017 school year exceeded \$31,000. The Ryle faculty and staff is also very proud of the strong relations and bonds that are evident within the staff. In the words of one teacher, "The faculty is like a family. They have helped take care of me when I needed help and I have helped others when they needed it." The faculty is organized into content area teams and each team has a designated work room for planning, working, and enjoying lunch. So by design, each team has great exposure and access to their colleagues before, during, and after the school day. Each content area team becomes very strong due to their great pride and work ethic but also to their shared work together on the important issues of curriculum, instruction, and student learning. When explaining why Larry A. Ryle High School is such a great school, many within the Ryle community point to the strong and dedicated faculty and staff as a critical ingredient.

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ATTACHMENT SUMMARY

Attachment Name	Description	Item(s)
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