

## December 2017 Phase III: Executive Summary for Districts\_11172017\_15:03

### Phase III: Executive Summary for Districts

**Kenton County**  
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## Phase III: Executive Summary for Districts

### Executive Summary

#### Description of the District

Describe the district 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 district serves?

Located in Northern Kentucky, the Kenton County School District is the sixth largest school district in the Commonwealth serving over 14,600 students in state-of-the-art facilities, including 10 elementary schools serving grades K-5; 1 P-8 STEAM Academy, 3 middle schools serving grades 6-8; 3 high schools serving grades 9-12, 1 choice career academy serving grades 9-12; 9 preschools serving nearly 350 three and four year old students, also housed in elementary schools. Programs for students with disabilities are accessible in every school and program. The number of students identified with an educational disability is nearly 2000, approximately 14% of the total student enrollment. Kenton County is a blend of suburban and rural areas experiencing population growth of 4.8% over the last 8 years. Located at the Northern tip of the state, the district encompasses a geographic area of approximately 164 square miles. The Kenton County School District is the 4th largest employer in Kenton County and the 11th largest employer in Northern Kentucky. The population of Kenton County is approximately 164,945. Of this group 91% are white, 5% are African-American, and 3% are Hispanic. Eighty-nine percent (89%) are high school graduates and 29% have a Bachelor's degree or higher. Median household income is \$54,296: 13% live below the poverty level. - The district is home to students with 37 different home languages. 88% of the students are white, 4% are Hispanic/Latino, 2% are African American, 2% Asian, and 4% other. - The Free and Reduced Lunch population is 43.66%. Sixteen (16) schools have a Free and Reduced Lunch rate over 20% thus qualifying them for Family Resource Youth Service Centers. - Overall attendance rate for all students is 95.8%. - 100% of classrooms provide internet connection, with a student to computer ratio of 1.8:1. - Approximately 15,000 meals are provided daily by food service. - Buses travel over 3 million miles each year to service the students within our district. With a new Superintendent at the helm as of July 2017, we look forward to continued growth and excellence, as in the Kenton County School District, Team Kenton is about ALL kids.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

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#### District's Purpose

Provide the district's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs.

Describe how the district embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

**Mission** The mission of the Kenton County School District is to provide a world-class education ensuring ALL students are college and/or career ready and prepared for the 21st Century Economy. **Core Beliefs It's About ALL Kids.** It is our responsibility to ensure every child reaches his or her maximum learning potential. All students deserve a safe positive and supportive environment. Every student should have an adult advocate in the school setting. Students learn best when actively engaged in the learning process. Maintaining high expectations leads to higher levels of student achievement. All students are inspired to learn when provided rigorous, relevant, innovative and creative learning opportunities in a positive environment. Recognition and appreciation of cultural, social, physical, and economic differences creates a healthy learning community. Sharing and using results to inform our decisions about instruction, resources, and curriculum leads to higher levels of student achievement. Students, educators, staff, families, business, and the community share in the responsibility for creating an environment in which all students can learn and succeed at high levels. High quality public education is essential to our

democracy and economic growth. District-Wide Goals 5 Star School District (Demonstrating Student Success) Every School 5 Star Transition Readiness Rate (CCR) 95% ACT 22 Graduation Rate 95% Attendance 96.25% Students Reading on Grade Level Exiting 3rd-95% Beginning in elementary (Primary), ALL students will participate in at least one activity providing a meaningful connection to school beyond the regular classroom Remain fiscally solvent/efficient

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### Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the district's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the district is striving to achieve in the next three years.

Notable Achievements: State and National Highlights since 2015-16 Our Students - Over \$12 million in Scholarship Money earned by the Class of 2017 - 30 Governor's Scholars (2017) - 8 Governor's School for the Arts Participants (2017) - National Yes I Can! Award Nominee (2017) - Two LGEC Regional Winners (2017) - Overture Award Finalist (2017) - KHSSA Girls Soccer Student-Athlete of the Year (2017) - UCA (Cheerleading) National Champions (2017) - Two perfect ACT scores (2017) - Six National Merit Semi-Finalists (2017) - Back to back state diving champion (2016 and 2017) - State wrestling champion (2017) - Three National Merit Semifinalists (2016) - State Diving Champion (2016) - State Wrestling Champion (2016) - Jefferson Award for Outstanding Service (2016) - Over \$15 million in Scholarships earned by the Class of 2016 - 27 students selected for Governor's Scholars Program (2016) - Three National Scholastic Writing Awards (2016) - One National Scholastic Art Award (2016) - State Mock Trial Winner (2016) - Read180 National Award Winner (2016) - One National Merit Semifinalist (2015) Our Staff - 2017 KY Teacher of the Year finalist (Carla Oetinger, Ryland Heights) - STAK Transportation Garage of the Year (2017) - 2017 KyAEA Art Teacher of the Year (Charity Harrier, Simon Kenton) - 2017 Ann S. Booth Mathematics Education Service and Achievement Award - 2017 Hope Street Group Kentucky Teacher - Fellow 2018 Music Educator Award Quarterfinalist - Two New National Board Certified Teachers (2016) - Counselor Advocate of the Year (2016) - PAEMST Award Finalist (2016) - Kentucky Middle School Music Teacher of the Year (2016) - PLTW Computer Science Teacher of the Year (2016) - KyAEA High School Art Teacher of the Year (2016) - 66 National Board Certified Teachers (2015) - Delta Kappa Gamma - Alpha Gamma State "Women of Vision" Award (2015) - Delta Kappa Gamma - Educational Excellence in the Classroom Award (2015) Our District - 2017 Energy Star Partner of the Year – Sustained Excellence - All preschools: 5-Star Rating from the Cabinet for Health and Family Services (2017) - Energy Star Partner of the Year for Sustained Excellence (2016) - KySTE Outstanding Leader Award (2016) - STAK Outstanding Superintendent Award (2016) - NSPRA Honorable Mention Winner (2016) - 12 OASIS Awards (2016) - Distinguished District with Eight Distinguished Schools, including three top 20 Schools of Distinction and two High-Performing Schools, in 2015-16 School Report Card -100% Tobacco Free - Energy Star Partner of the Year for Sustained Excellence (2015) Areas for Improvement: Students with Disabilities continue to score below the state as compared to all students in Reading and Math. - High School Reading %Proficient/Distinguished Students with Disabilities District 41.1/ State 43.9 - High School Math %Proficient/Distinguished Students with Disabilities District 10/ State 12.4 - Middle Reading %Proficient/Distinguished Students with Disabilities District 17.7/ State 26.4 - Middle Math %Proficient/Distinguished Students with Disabilities District 13.5/ State 19.1 - Elementary Reading %Proficient/Distinguished Students with Disabilities District 33.8/ State 35.6 - Elementary Math %Proficient/Distinguished Students with Disabilities District 25.6/State 28.8 Students are below the state average for meeting College and Career Readiness. - College and Career Readiness District 63.2/ State 65.1 - 14% of high school seniors are Career Ready The 4-year cohort graduation rate decreased. - The average high school 4-year cohort graduation rate declined from 93.3% in 2016 to 92.2% in 2017.

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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.

Kenton County Academies of Innovation and Technology The Kenton County Academies of Innovation and Technology (KCAIT) are in their sixth year and available to any high school student enrolled in the Kenton County School District. Each academy uses an inquiry-based/performance-based method where the lines between "technical" and "academic" are deliberately blurred. All scholars use technology to research, produce, and present across disciplines. Much of the class work is project-based and incorporates real world application. Scholars with interests in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) are encouraged to apply. Curriculum is framed around answering questions and solving problems. Integration means we address issues as they are found in the real world: in teams, studying questions and themes that cut across academic disciplines. Teachers collaborate within an academy to develop coherent programs by intersecting their curricula wherever possible. Each academy has a technical and two core content classes. The core content classes are taught with an emphasis and "flavor" of the career class. Each core content class covers the same curriculum as the core content classes taught at the traditional high schools. However, academy core content classes are unique because they are taught by integrating the topics taught in the career class. Scholars have seven different academies in which to apply to enroll. Each offer credits the same as their high schools. Scholars attend for half a day and the other half a day at their traditional high school. The seven career academies are: Biomedical Sciences, Engineering, Informatics/Computer Sciences, Military Prep, Future Educator, Women in Engineering and the Gemini College Academy. District Community The Kenton County School District offers strong systems to support all schools. Local school communities make decisions about ways to enhance those systems for their children through School Based Decision Making Teams (SBDM). School councils promote shared leadership among those who are close to the students. Membership of each council includes parents, teachers and an administrator of the school. The council has the responsibility to set school policy and make decisions which shall provide an environment to enhance student achievement and help meet the goals. Making decisions through shared decision making results in a greater commitment to implementing decisions that will enhance the achievement of students. During the last school year approximately 10,000 parents attended at least one parent teacher conference. There are also a number of volunteers that provide service within the school setting. Approximately 40,000 hours were logged last year by adults volunteering their services. The district employs 1,728 staff members. Of those 963 are certified employees 765 are classified staff. Of the district's core academic teachers, 100% are Highly Qualified under the guidelines of No Child Left Behind. 58 teachers are National Board Certified. The average years of teaching experience is 13. The transportation department employs 141 full time bus drivers, and 7 mechanics. Buses log 10,810 miles per day and transport approximately 10,475 students (including private school students). There are 178 buses, including 21 special needs buses and 12 preschool buses. Facilities are maintained by 8 maintenance technicians (3 HVAC, 1 Plumber, 2 Carpenters, 1 Electrician, 1 Mail Carrier) and 82 custodians. Green Energy The Kenton County School District believes school buildings should use less energy, demonstrate sound environmental practices and serve as fundamental tools for learning. All of our school construction and/or renovation projects focus on high performance features, student involvement, and increased student performance. The commitment of the Kenton County School District to high performance, sustainable school design can be demonstrated by a number of firsts: - First LEED® Silver Certified school in Kentucky - First schools to receive consecutive ENERGY STAR® Labels - First true daylit school in Kentucky - First school with rainwater catchment - First school with solar PV Our newest school facilities

feature high performance design features such as: - Daylight harvesting - Solar panels - Rainwater catchment systems - Vital signs systems - Green building materials - Geothermal heating and cooling - Vegetated roofs - ICF (insulated concrete forms) walls We believe that school construction and renovation projects provide excellent opportunities for student involvement and rigorous and relevant instruction. Most recently, the students at Fort Wright Elementary School, KCAIT Edgewood Campus, Woodland Middle, and Scott High Schools were involved with the construction/renovation of their schools in many ways. School district expenditures play an important role in the Kenton County School District economic environment. The district is committed to compensation and professional development to attract and retain effective staff. Salary schedule increases have been implemented for the past five years along with teacher training funded through grants and budget allocations. Technology infrastructure upgrades and equipment additions are evident throughout district schools providing the foundation for more innovative teaching practices, access to additional lessons and online activities for students in all grade levels. Efficiency in staffing, energy conservation measures, and strategic use of grant funds have kept General Fund total expenditure growth to 2.9% over the past three years. Retirement plan funding is currently being reviewed by the state legislature and will affect future benefits expenditures for all state government divisions. The General Fund expenditure contingency has averaged 8.8% of the total budget in 2015-2017. The Kenton County School District has levied three nickels against local property assessment, which will support continued improvement with the capital construction program. Community Engagement The Community Engagement department communicates the district's goals to the public utilizing technology, network television, marketing, and public relations. - Superintendent Student Leadership Advisory- Students from each of the three high schools meet to advise the superintendent on the needs of their schools in relation to the overall district goals. - Bornlearning- Early childhood development program in our elementary schools helps create a sense of community for families and gives strategies to ensure kindergarten readiness. - @TheKCSD- Twitter account that now has more than 7 thousand followers in the district to share the great news at all of our schools. - The district offers a selection of over 150 extracurricular activities, including over 17 sports between the schools. - Community Education-The district welcomes adults and children into our schools throughout the year to participate in a wide range of community learning projects. Our goal is to continue to add worthwhile programs that are school and/or community generated to give students and families in our areas a closer connection to our schools. - Business Partnerships-The district has extensive partnerships with our business community. All seven KCAIT (Kenton County Academies of Innovation and Technology) have business advisory members who work directly with students, advising them of their research projects twice a year. Post-Secondary partners include, Gateway Community College, Thomas More College, Northern Kentucky University, University of Cincinnati, and Cincinnati State. Our students hold apprenticeships with over 50 different companies, including St. Elizabeth Hospital, Mazak, Duke Energy, and JC Penney's. - The District Communication Department provides, both instructional and informational videos found on YouTube, accessed through the district's home webpage. - Education Foundation-Created by alumni, the Kenton County Education Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides scholarships to students to pursue post-secondary education. Since 1988 the foundation has awarded over \$100,000 to over 100 seniors. - #TeamKenton Foundation is a newly formed nonprofit organization whose goal is to raise money for Kenton County students and has in its bylaws that no salaries shall be paid from monies raised by the foundation. Gifted and Talented The Kenton County School District identifies and serves gifted youth within our schools to ensure an appropriate level of instruction to reach the potential of each student. High potential learners at the primary level and identified gifted students in grades four through twelve are provided articulated services to differentiate their instruction, therefore meeting their individual needs. Our schools offer multiple service delivery options such as acceleration, honors and Advanced Placement courses, collaborative teaching, special counseling services, distance learning, enrichment services,



independent study, mentorship, resource services, seminars, and individualized or cluster grouping differentiated instructional strategies to students in the PTP- Primary Talent Pool (Grades K-3) or students formally identified in grades four through twelve. EL The Kenton County EL (English Learners) Program is designed to assist students with limited English proficiency to speak, read, write and comprehend the English language, and to meet challenging state content goals to close the gap between LEP (limited English proficient) students and non-LEP students. A high-quality language instructional program with qualified personnel is implemented to prepare LEP students to successfully attain English and participate in all-English classrooms. State and district academic assessments are used to assess annual progress in English and in academic achievement. The LEP student population is equitably represented in gifted education, special education and in all other services provided for all students. Currently, there are 342 English Language Learners in the district. This population represents students in grades preschool through high school. There are 37 different languages with Spanish as the most prevalent language. AP/Dual Credits Over 31 Advanced Placement classes are offered at the high schools. The percent of scores on AP exams that were a 3 or higher is 68%. Students at all district high schools are also eligible to earn dual credits through select courses in partnership with Northern Kentucky University, Thomas More College, Murray State University, Kentucky State University, Eastern Kentucky University, Morehead State University, Gateway Community and Technical College, and many others.

**Preschool Program** The Kenton County Preschool Program is a Five Star Rated Program serving children who meet eligibility criteria as defined by the Kentucky Department of Education. The preschool program is available to families with four-year-old children who are income eligible, as well as families with three and four-year-old children with delays in their development, regardless of income. The family must reside in the Kenton County School District in order to attend the preschool program. The program is available at no cost to the family (other than lunch fees if the child is not free lunch eligible). Preschool classrooms are located in nine of the elementary schools in the Kenton County School District, serving the needs of approximately 350 preschool children. Each classroom is staffed to meet the needs of the participating students with a certified teacher and at least one teaching assistant. The majority of current preschool teachers are Master's level teachers with an Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education (IECE) teaching certificate. All teaching assistants in the preschool program have completed curriculum training and receive ongoing professional development.

**Special Education** In The Kenton County School District, we believe that ALL children can learn at high levels regardless of their ethnicity, ability, gender, socio-economic status, native language, or whether they have a disability. A wide variety of programs and services are available to students with exceptionalities within the Kenton County School District to ensure all students have access to a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE). These services focus on increasing student achievement and postsecondary outcomes by providing access to a rigorous curriculum in the Least Restrictive Environment. All schools provide special education and related services for students with academic and social emotional deficits by offering specially designed instruction and support within the general education classroom and resource room as prescribed by their IEP. For our more complex learners, the KCSD offers specialized programs throughout our district should the ARC determine it's required to ensure FAPE. Students with low-incidence disabilities, autism, or emotional behavior disabilities have access to high-quality academics and the program modifications and supports required for success. Special education consultants with expertise in behavior, autism, instructional strategies, and compliance allow direct support and training to teachers. Related service personnel work collaboratively with district and building level staff to support individual student needs. Special education leads are identified at each building to receive additional training to empower teacher leaders and establish resources within the building for supporting student needs. Additionally, an assistive technology team is available to provide training to teachers and support students by identifying appropriate communication devices, and other tools essential for access and independence.

**Title I** The Title I program, one of the largest federal aid programs, sends money to the school districts based on

census counts of children from low-income families and children in several smaller categories, such as foster children, homeless children and those living in correctional institutions. Those schools with 40% or more of their population low income are served with a "Schoolwide" program. Kenton County has nine schools that receive schoolwide funding - Beechgrove Elementary, J. A. Caywood Elementary, Ft. Wright Elementary, Piner Elementary, River Ridge Elementary, Ryland Elementary, Taylor Mill Elementary, Summit View Academy, and White's Tower Elementary. Schools with less than 40 percent low income, that are identified as Title 1, offer a "Targeted Assistance" program where participating students receive instruction to increase achievement on the state standards. Kenton County has one school that receives Targeted Assistance funding Kenton Elementary. Instructional Technology Kenton County Schools is integrating technology into classrooms to enhance deeper learning of content and build 21st Century skills based off of the seven ISTE (International Society for Technology in Education: <https://www.iste.org/standards/for-students> ) standards for students. District consultants work with teachers in ways to; gather and utilize student data, create digital tools to help instruction i.e. formative assessments and assessment analyzers, and help students/teachers collaborate more utilizing various technology tools.

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## ATTACHMENT SUMMARY

Attachment Name	Description	Item(s)
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