



Comprehensive District Improvement Plan

Nicholas County

Gregory Reid
395 West Main St.
Carlisle, KY 40311

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	1
Executive Summary	
Introduction	3
Description of the School System	4
System's Purpose	5
Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement	6
Additional Information	7
KDE Needs Assessment	
Introduction	9
Data Analysis	10
Areas of Strengths	11
Opportunities for Improvement	12
Oversight and Monitoring	13
Conclusion	14
Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP)	
Overview	16
Goals Summary	17
Goal 1: Gap Reduction in Reading and Math: Combined (Reading and Mathematics) - Percentage Proficient/Distinguished - Proficiency Targets will be met by 2017	19

Goal 2: The district will strive to increase community support and involvement.....	20
Goal 3: The Nicholas County School district will move out of the "Focus School" category by 2014.....	21
Activity Summary by Funding Source.....	23
Activity Summary by School.....	25

Introduction

The process of Improvement Planning in Kentucky is used as the means of determining how schools and districts will plan to ensure that students reach proficiency and beyond by 2014. The process focuses school and district improvement efforts on student needs by bringing together all stakeholders to plan for improvement, by focusing planning efforts on priority needs and closing achievement gaps between subgroups of students, by building upon school and district capacity for high quality planning, and by making connections between the funds that flow into the district and the priority needs in schools. Your district's plans for improvement must be based on careful and honest analysis of data, address all content areas, and clearly address gaps in student achievement.

Executive Summary

Introduction

Every school system has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school system makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school system 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 system, and the kinds of programs and services that a school system implements to support student learning.

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

Description of the School System

Describe the school system'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 system serves?

Nicholas County Schools is a small, rural district located in Carlisle, Kentucky. The Nicholas County School System is composed of Nicholas County Elementary School (Grades Pre K-6), Nicholas County High School (Grades 7-12), and a Family Resource/Youth Service Center. All schools, offices, bus facilities, athletic facilities, labs, and mobile units are located on one campus. Recent construction allowed grades 7 and 8 to be moved from the elementary school and into a new middle school wing attached to the high school.

Enrollment (Pre-K through 12th grade) is approximately 1250 students. Nearly 70% of our students qualify for free or reduced lunch. The student population is primarily caucasian, with less than 5% belonging to minority groups.

The staff of the Nicholas County school district is comprised of a relatively equal number of residents of the county along with those living in other communities.

System's Purpose

Provide the school system's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school system embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

The Mission of the Nicholas County School District is to provide the essential educational foundation that will produce self-directed, life-long learners who will be able to meet challenges, make decisions, and function effectively in a complex and ever-changing society. The Nicholas County School System is committed to providing the best education for all students. We believe that all students can learn. Our staff continually seeks ways to improve our schools.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

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

Assessment data continues to show Nicholas County Schools lagging behind state-wide proficiency levels in most content areas and grade levels. With only a few exceptions (elementary science, middle school social studies, and third grade reading) all content areas are in need of improvement.

Additional Information

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

The Nicholas County School district is continually seeking strategies and methods to improve instruction and student performance. Our board of education is dedicated to providing a quality education to our students. This is evident in their work to provide state of the art facilities to our students and staff. It is also a top priority for our district to recruit and retain a highly qualified teaching staff and a dedicated support staff.

KDE Needs Assessment

Introduction

The purpose of the School District (system) Needs Assessment is to use data and information to prioritize allocation of resources and activities.

Data Analysis

What question(s) are you trying to answer with the data and information provided to you? What does the data/information tell you?

What does the data/information not tell you?

The data and information provided to our district raise the following questions: 1) what are our greatest strengths? 2) what are our greatest areas of growth needed? 3) what are the gaps identified? The data indicates that our students perform at or near the state proficiency level in early elementary reading; however the distance we move away from that average becomes greater in the middle and high school grades. Math is another area of weakness for our district. The gaps are indentified in both of these areas for free and reduced lunch and between males and females. Math scores dropped due to the gap between Kentucky Core Content 4.1 and the new Kentucky Academic Core Standards.

Areas of Strengths

What were the areas of strength you noted? What actions are you implementing to sustain the areas of strength? What is there cause to celebrate?

Fourth grade science had a student index of 100. This is the first content area our district has had to reach that level. Middle school science was also an area of strength, with a score within three points of the state average. Middle school social studies and writing scores were also very near the state average, with social studies only 0.3 from that mark, and writing within 1.5.

Opportunities for Improvement

What were areas in need of improvement? What plans are you making to improve the areas of need?

Improvement is needed in many areas. However, an emphasis must be placed on district-wide reading performance and math performance. With reading affecting students' ability to achieve in all other content areas, improvement there should lead to improvement in other areas as well. More focus on professional development in both of these two subjects, as well as additional assistance to low achieving students are planned to make needed improvements.

Oversight and Monitoring

Describe your processes and interventions for monitoring continuous improvement.

Regular student assessments and data analysis of the results will drive teacher instruction. Weekly review of lesson plans and regular walk through observations will keep administrators involved in improving instruction.

Conclusion

Reflect on your answers provided in the previous sections. What are your next steps in addressing areas of concern?

Work with both schools to ensure curriculum is aligned with new core standards. District level focus on improved instruction and increased student performance must be maintained. The level of concern for improvement cannot be allowed to decrease as the school year progresses. Regular communication with building level instructional leaders must center around teaching and learning. With limited resources and tightening budgets, administrators need to look at all funding sources that may be aimed at improving student performance.

Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP)

Overview

Plan Name

Comprehensive District Improvement Plan (CDIP)

Plan Description

The Nicholas County CDIP meets the requirements of Senate Bill 168. The plan focuses on closing the achievement gap in reading and math, increasing parental involvement, building stronger relationships between school and community, and improving the district's percentile rank in Kentucky.

Goals Summary

The following is a summary of the goals encompassed in this plan. The details for each goal are available in the next section.

#	Goal Name	Goal Details	Goal Type	Measurable Objective	Total Funding
1	Gap Reduction in Reading and Math: Combined (Reading and Mathematics) - Percentage Proficient/Distinguished - Proficiency Targets will be met by 2017	Objectives: 2 Strategies: 4 Activities: 4	Academic	A 10% increase of Economically Disadvantaged students will demonstrate a proficiency Score proficient in math in Mathematics by 05/31/2013 as measured by Performance on state mandated test., A 10% increase of Economically Disadvantaged students will demonstrate a proficiency Score proficient in math in Reading by 05/31/2013 as measured by Performance on state mandated test. in English Language Arts by 05/31/2013 as measured by Proficiency levels on state mandated test..	\$67200
2	The district will strive to increase community support and involvement.	Objectives: 1 Strategies: 2 Activities: 2	Organizational	Collaborate to get more parents involved in school activities, organizations, and planning, contributing to the success of their students. by 05/31/2014 as measured by numbers of parents/guardians participating in open house, parent/teacher conferences, committees, SBDMC elections, after school activities and the volunteer program..	\$4000

Comprehensive District Improvement Plan

Nicholas County

3	The Nicholas County School district will move out of the "Focus School" category by 2014.	Objectives: 2 Strategies: 2 Activities: 4	Organizational	Demonstrate a behavior reduce the number of students dropping out of high school or going to home school by 05/30/2014 as measured by a 50% reduction of the number of high school students dropping out or going to home school by 2014., Demonstrate a proficiency Increase the number of college and career ready students. by 05/30/2014 as measured by a 30% increase in the number of college and career ready students by 2014..	\$2500
---	---	---	----------------	---	--------

Goal 1: Gap Reduction in Reading and Math: Combined (Reading and Mathematics) - Percentage Proficient/Distinguished - Proficiency Targets will be met by 2017

Measurable Objective 1:

A 10% increase of Economically Disadvantaged students will demonstrate a proficiency Score proficient in math in Mathematics by 05/31/2013 as measured by Performance on state mandated test.

Strategy 1:

Student Assistance - Students who struggle to perform at proficient levels on teacher administered assessments throughout the school year will be referred for additional assistance and tutoring.

Research Cited: Students who received additional assistance and tutoring in ESS day-time waiver and 21st Century after-school programs during previous years showed improvement on the state assessment.

Activity - ESS Day-time Tutoring	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Source Of Funding	Staff Responsible
Tutoring provided by retired certified teachers during the school day. Schools: All Schools	Tutoring	10/15/2012	05/17/2013	\$30000	District Funding	ESS Coordinator Building Principals

Strategy 2:

Teacher Professional Development - All math teachers will receive research-based professional development aimed at increasing student performance in math.

Research Cited: Professional development (formal in-service training to upgrade the content knowledge and pedagogical skills of teachers) is widely viewed as an important means of improving teaching and learning.

Activity - Math Teacher PD	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Source Of Funding	Staff Responsible
All math teachers in the district will attend PD (grade and content appropriate) which is designed to improve performance in mathematics, with emphasis on low SES students. Schools: All Schools	Professional Learning	06/03/2013	08/09/2013	\$3600	Title II Part A	PD Coordinator Building Principals Title II Coordinator

Measurable Objective 2:

A 10% increase of Economically Disadvantaged students will demonstrate a proficiency Score proficient in math in Reading by 05/31/2013 as measured by Performance on state mandated test. A 20% increase of Free/Reduced Lunch Eligible students will demonstrate a proficiency Score proficient in math in Reading by 05/31/2013 as measured by Proficiency levels on state mandated test..

Comprehensive District Improvement Plan

Nicholas County

Strategy 1:

Student Assistance - Students who struggle to achieve proficiency on teacher administered tests will receive assistance and tutoring during the school day by a retired certified teacher.

Research Cited: Students who received such assistance during previous years demonstrated improvement on the state test.

Activity - Assistance/Tutoring	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Source Of Funding	Staff Responsible
ESS day-time waiver tutoring. Schools: All Schools	Tutoring	10/15/2012	05/17/2013	\$30000	District Funding	ESS Coordinator Building Principals

Strategy 2:

Teacher Professional Development - All reading and language arts teachers will receive PD aimed at increasing student achievement in reading.

Research Cited: Professional development) formal in-service training to upgrade the content knowledge and pedagogical skills of teachers) is widely viewed as an important means of improving teaching and learning. MDRC is conducting demonstrations and studies of professional development

Activity - Teacher Reading PD	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Source Of Funding	Staff Responsible
All reading and language arts teachers will attend professional development (grade level appropriate) aimed at increasing student achievement in reading. Schools: All Schools	Professional Learning	06/01/2013	08/09/2013	\$3600	Title II Part A	PD Coordinator Building Principals Title II Coordinator

Goal 2: The district will strive to increase community support and involvement.

Measurable Objective 1:

Collaborate to get more parents involved in school activities, organizations, and planning, contributing to the success of their students. by 05/31/2014 as measured by numbers of parents/guardians participating in open house, parent/teacher conferences, committees, SBDMC elections, after school activities and the volunteer program..

Strategy 1:

Advertise and promote school activities - Fully utilize the district's communication resources to inform parents of all school functions. This includes the use of the district newspaper, One Call system, local newspapers, and letters to parents.

Research Cited: 2011 TELL Survey indicated that only 36.8 percent of respondents felt that parents/guardians support teachers, contributing to the success of their students.

Comprehensive District Improvement Plan

Nicholas County

Activity - Local Newspapers	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Source Of Funding	Staff Responsible
The local media seeks out stories about sports activities and awards presentations. However the district can do more to promote upcoming activities such as open houses, parent nights, etc. by initiating contact with the media Schools: All Schools	Parent Involvement	10/15/2012	05/31/2014	\$3000	General Fund	District Information Officer

Strategy 2:

Customer Service - The district will work to build on the welcoming school model through proven customer effective services methods, while maintaining a safe school environment.

Research Cited: Only 51.5% of respondents to the 2011 TELL Survey felt that the district does a good job of encouraging parent participation.

Activity - Welcoming School	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Source Of Funding	Staff Responsible
All staff members will receive training in techniques and behaviors which promote a customer friendly environment in our schools and on our campus. Schools: All Schools	Community Engagement	06/01/2013	08/09/2013	\$1000	Title I Part A	Title I Coordinator Building Principals

Goal 3: The Nicholas County School district will move out of the "Focus School" category by 2014.

Measurable Objective 1:

Demonstrate a behavior reduce the number of students dropping out of high school or going to home school by 05/30/2014 as measured by a 50% reduction of the number of high school students dropping out or going to home school by 2014.

Strategy 1:

Increase attendance rates of at risk students - The district will work to improve attendance of students who are identified as at risk for drop out or withdrawing to homeschool.

Research Cited: 2011-12 Next Generation Learners report indicates a 67.4 graduation rate for Nicholas County Schools.

Activity - Truancy	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Source Of Funding	Staff Responsible
The district will intervene with truant students in a timely fashion to ensure that all steps are taken to get them back into regular attendance. Schools: Nicholas County High School	Policy and Process	01/03/2013	05/30/2014	\$0	No Funding Required	DPP Building Principals Counselors

Comprehensive District Improvement Plan

Nicholas County

Activity - Alternative Setting	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Source Of Funding	Staff Responsible
Using funding and personnel already available, create alternative setting programs for at risk students. Schools: Nicholas County High School	Academic Support Program	06/01/2013	05/30/2014	\$0	No Funding Required	Building Principal School Safety Officer Personnel Director

Measurable Objective 2:

Demonstrate a proficiency Increase the number of college and career ready students. by 05/30/2014 as measured by a 30% increase in the number of college and career ready students by 2014..

Strategy 1:

Increase participation on college and career readiness exams - Students will be given more opportunities for success if more of them are exposed to the tests more often.

Research Cited: Students who take the ACT multiple times tend to increase their scores.

Activity - Work Keys	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Source Of Funding	Staff Responsible
Senior students who are not already college or career ready will be encouraged to take each of the three sections of the Work Keys as many times as possible to promote success. Schools: Nicholas County High School	Academic Support Program	10/16/2012	05/30/2014	\$2500	General Fund	High School Counselor

Activity - ACT	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Source Of Funding	Staff Responsible
Students will be encouraged to take the ACT and compass tests as many times as allowed. Schools: Nicholas County High School	Academic Support Program	10/15/2012	05/30/2014	\$0	No Funding Required	Counselor Principal

Activity Summary by Funding Source

Below is a breakdown of your activities by funding source

District Funding

Activity Name	Activity Description	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Staff Responsible
ESS Day-time Tutoring	Tutoring provided by retired certified teachers during the school day.	Tutoring	10/15/2012	05/17/2013	\$30000	ESS Coordinator Building Principals
Assistance/Tutoring	ESS day-time waiver tutoring.	Tutoring	10/15/2012	05/17/2013	\$30000	ESS Coordinator Building Principals
Total					\$60000	

Title II Part A

Activity Name	Activity Description	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Staff Responsible
Math Teacher PD	All math teachers in the district will attend PD (grade and content appropriate) which is designed to improve performance in mathematics, with emphasis on low SES students.	Professional Learning	06/03/2013	08/09/2013	\$3600	PD Coordinator Building Principals Title II Coordinator
Teacher Reading PD	All reading and language arts teachers will attend professional development (grade level appropriate) aimed at increasing student achievement in reading.	Professional Learning	06/01/2013	08/09/2013	\$3600	PD Coordinator Building Principals Title II Coordinator
Total					\$7200	

Title I Part A

Activity Name	Activity Description	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Staff Responsible
---------------	----------------------	---------------	------------	----------	-------------------	-------------------

Comprehensive District Improvement Plan

Nicholas County

Welcoming School	All staff members will receive training in techniques and behaviors which promote a customer friendly environment in our schools and on our campus.	Community Engagement	06/01/2013	08/09/2013	\$1000	Title I Coordinator Building Principals
Total					\$1000	

General Fund

Activity Name	Activity Description	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Staff Responsible
Work Keys	Senior students who are not already college or career ready will be encouraged to take each of the three sections of the Work Keys as many times as possible to promote success.	Academic Support Program	10/16/2012	05/30/2014	\$2500	High School Counselor
Local Newspapers	The local media seeks out stories about sports activities and awards presentations. However the district can do more to promote upcoming activities such as open houses, parent nights, etc. by initiating contact with the media	Parent Involvement	10/15/2012	05/31/2014	\$3000	District Information Officer
Total					\$5500	

No Funding Required

Activity Name	Activity Description	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Staff Responsible
ACT	Students will be encouraged to take the ACT and compass tests as many times as allowed.	Academic Support Program	10/15/2012	05/30/2014	\$0	Counselor Principal
Alternative Setting	Using funding and personnel already available, create alternative setting programs for at risk students.	Academic Support Program	06/01/2013	05/30/2014	\$0	Building Principal School Safety Officer Personnel Director
Truancy	The district will intervene with truant students in a timely fashion to ensure that all steps are taken to get them back into regular attendance.	Policy and Process	01/03/2013	05/30/2014	\$0	DPP Building Principals Counselors
Total					\$0	

Activity Summary by School

Below is a breakdown of activity by school.

All Schools

Activity Name	Activity Description	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Staff Responsible
ESS Day-time Tutoring	Tutoring provided by retired certified teachers during the school day.	Tutoring	10/15/2012	05/17/2013	\$30000	ESS Coordinator Building Principals
Math Teacher PD	All math teachers in the district will attend PD (grade and content appropriate) which is designed to improve performance in mathematics, with emphasis on low SES students.	Professional Learning	06/03/2013	08/09/2013	\$3600	PD Coordinator Building Principals Title II Coordinator
Assistance/Tutoring	ESS day-time waiver tutoring.	Tutoring	10/15/2012	05/17/2013	\$30000	ESS Coordinator Building Principals
Teacher Reading PD	All reading and language arts teachers will attend professional development (grade level appropriate) aimed at increasing student achievement in reading.	Professional Learning	06/01/2013	08/09/2013	\$3600	PD Coordinator Building Principals Title II Coordinator
Local Newspapers	The local media seeks out stories about sports activities and awards presentations. However the district can do more to promote upcoming activities such as open houses, parent nights, etc. by initiating contact with the media	Parent Involvement	10/15/2012	05/31/2014	\$3000	District Information Officer
Welcoming School	All staff members will receive training in techniques and behaviors which promote a customer friendly environment in our schools and on our campus.	Community Engagement	06/01/2013	08/09/2013	\$1000	Title I Coordinator Building Principals
Total					\$71200	

Nicholas County High School

Activity Name	Activity Description	Activity Type	Begin Date	End Date	Resource Assigned	Staff Responsible
---------------	----------------------	---------------	------------	----------	-------------------	-------------------

Comprehensive District Improvement Plan

Nicholas County

Truancy	The district will intervene with truant students in a timely fashion to ensure that all steps are taken to get them back into regular attendance.	Policy and Process	01/03/2013	05/30/2014	\$0	DPP Building Principals Counselors
Alternative Setting	Using funding and personnel already available, create alternative setting programs for at risk students.	Academic Support Program	06/01/2013	05/30/2014	\$0	Building Principal School Safety Officer Personnel Director
Work Keys	Senior students who are not already college or career ready will be encouraged to take each of the three sections of the Work Keys as many times as possible to promote success.	Academic Support Program	10/16/2012	05/30/2014	\$2500	High School Counselor
ACT	Students will be encouraged to take the ACT and compass tests as many times as allowed.	Academic Support Program	10/15/2012	05/30/2014	\$0	Counselor Principal
Total					\$2500	