

Executive Summary
Barren County

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 the heart of south central Kentucky, the Barren County School District currently serves approximately 5,200 students in preschool through 12th grade. The district is comprised of ten schools with 7 elementary, 1 middle, 1 ninth grade academy, and 1 high school. In addition, we have one Area Technical Center, an alternative school/day treatment center (College Street Campus), and a virtual high school (BAVEL). We also have the support of a central office, a central office annex building, a bus garage, and many auxiliary programs. We are blessed in Barren County with beautiful and efficient facilities for our students.

Student Population overall is 5,278 students, with the following gender and minority percentages:

Gender Percentage

Male	49.87%
Female	50.13%

Minority Percentages

AUSTIN TRACY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	5.14% of 248 students
BARREN COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL	6.85% of 1,299 students
BARREN COUNTY MIDDLE SCHOOL	8.26% of 750 students
BAVEL	14.02% of 256 students
COLLEGE STREET CAMPUS	3.45% of 60 students
EASTERN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	6.11% of 409 students
HISEVILLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	7.98% of 263 students
NORTH JACKSON ELEMENTARY	8.56% of 561 students
PARK CITY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	16.25% of 443 students
RED CROSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	11.40% of 693 students
TEMPLE HILL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	12.33% of 300 students
DISTRICT TOTAL	9.16% of total student population grades K-12

Barren County School District has repeatedly been identified as a “growth district” due to increase in student enrollment. The increase in enrollment has created a few challenges. To help with overcrowding at elementary schools near town, some of the preschool students were moved into a renovated building on Broadway Street. This building will continue to be utilized for preschool students and in the next couple of years, the rest of the building will be updated and renovated in order to house central office staff.

Construction is well underway on a new state of the art CTE facility located on the Barren County High School campus. The new Career and Technical Education building is being created to compliment hybrid programming offered at our high school and our Area Technology Center. Space will be available to allow all students interested in exploring Biomedical, Engineering, Business, Culinary Arts, and Computer Sciences to accommodate student interest and focus on the priority sectors for future jobs in the Commonwealth. This is part of the overall Work Ready Skills Grant that awarded \$6.84 million to allow for the creation of a new regional technical campus. This renovation and modernization to the current ATC and additional CTE facility for BCHS, will help to blend both ATC offerings and Barren County programs, as well as, address current workforce needs of the community.

Barren County Schools are known and respected across the state and nation for our academic and enrichment opportunities for students. Our schools are visited by other districts across the state, and our leaders often receive invitations to speak and present at national gatherings. The great things happening in Barren County continue to resonate with other educators. Barren County Schools is a participant in the Kentucky Innovation Lab Network which allows for access, training and resources for innovative approaches in teaching and learning among the twenty-nine member districts. Barren County Schools are the home to the Commissioner’s Computer Science Initiative, partnering with Apple and Code.org to provide progressive training, in addition to over 30 other career pathways for our students. Creating a pipeline for success in academic areas and exposure to Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Curriculum from preschool to high school, our students exposed to innovation that would rival any school in the Commonwealth. Because our students are provided opportunities to stretch their learning each and every day, the Barren County School District community can be assured that students are receiving a rigorous and relevant curriculum. Many of our preschool students learn to read, and we have high school students who enroll in the Early College Magnet program. As a district we are also on the cutting edge of the latest educational research, including the work of John Hattie, James Nottingham, and John Antonetti. Our teachers and staff are trained by nationally-known presenters on these topics, with coaching and follow-up provided through building and district leadership. Impact teams at each school site consisting of teachers and administrators meet regularly to measure the effectiveness of these initiatives and determine next steps.

Community Statistics

In 2017, the population was 43,027 in Barren County. 92% of the Barren County community is white/caucasian. The largest minority population consists of 3% Black/African American. Our community trends toward low-income as the median household income in Barren County in 2016 was \$38,370; much lower than the state average of \$43,036 and national average of \$53,889 (Census ACS data). Our district participates in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) program, providing breakfast

and lunch for all students at no charge. The current 2017 unemployment rate is 4.4% and 20.8% of residents live below the poverty level. According to the Kentucky Center for Education and Workforce Statistics (KCEWS), 20% of adults in our county have no high school diploma. Only 14.7% of adults in our county have a bachelor's degree or higher.

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.

In Barren County School District, our focus is on *every* child on the with a vision for preparing students for life. Barren County programs and personalized supports of each student and their families allow us to provide tools for success related to academics, social & emotional support, career options that exceed state averages, afterschool programming, community education, and relationships that support life-long learning and support. The Strategic Planning Committee meets annually to update, revise, monitor, and prioritize goals in order to allocate resources. This committee consists of district administrators, parents, teachers, and community leaders. A few years ago, this team wrote the district mission statement for Barren County Schools. The mission of our district, "Students attending the Barren County School System will achieve success in college or post-secondary education. This will be demonstrated by providing high quality 21st century teaching that leads to learning in a healthy, safe, and supportive environment. We will provide experiences and create opportunities which will ensure that our students will be prepared to embrace change in tomorrow's world," drives the decisions of our leaders.

In order to accomplish this mission, we first begin by hiring and training a team of high-quality educators and exceptional support staff. Student success is our goal, and we strive each day to focus our resources and efforts toward this goal. We understand that children do not reach success in exactly the same way. Therefore, Barren County provides multiple pathways to success beyond the traditional system. For example, students may attend or take courses through BAVEL, PHOENIX, homebound, Day-Treatment, or our Alternative School. We are expanding efforts with programs like BCMS Renaissance that focuses on learning through project-based and blended learning. In addition BCHS and College Street have programs that concentrate on online and blended learning. Great efforts have been made to reach ALL students in our Barren County Schools.

Over the past two years, we have embraced the PLTW LAUNCH program in our elementary schools in order to enhance our existing PLTW Gateway at the middle school and PLTW Engineering and Bio-Med programs. A new Computer Science initiative is also being implemented K-12 to prepare students for high demand computing careers in both the information technology and computer programming fields.

The Barren County School District strives to offer relevant career pathways for all students, based on workforce needs and priority sectors in the region. All students have the opportunity to participate in Career and Technical Education pathways that are a pipeline to both post-secondary education and careers. Programs offered include:

- Agriculture: Horticulture, Animal Science, and Ag Power and Structures
- Biomedical Science
- Business: Accounting, Marketing, E-Commerce, Business Management, Business & Marketing Education
- PLTW Engineering
- Family & Consumer Science: Early Childhood Education, Culinary Arts
- Information Support & Services
- Auto Mechanics
- Construction/Carpentry
- Drafting & Design Engineering
- JROTC
- Electricity
- Allied Health, Phlebotomy, Pharmacy Tech
- HVAC
- Information Technology
- Welding
- Machine Tool Technology

Barren County Schools also provide high quality 21st Century Community Learning Centers and afterschool programs at all schools. In addition to homework help, academic tutoring, and academic target groups for reading and math, 21st CCLC provides STEM camps, fine arts activities, fitness, health, recreation, preparation for ACT, and college/career explorations. We value our partnerships with our parents, families, and the larger community. In fact, one of the goals of the 21st Century afterschool programs is to involve the community in our schools. Quarterly Family Engagement Nights are organized to help educate parents about career opportunities, skill building, 95210 Wellness, in addition to showcasing student academic and enrichment activities. For example, one such event addressed how parents can help their children with homework and use household games to reinforce learning. As a district, we seek to actively engage and involve our parents and community in our schools by expanding our Parent Volunteer Program and by gaining input from our community through Strategic Planning.

Barren County's District Wellness policy creates a culture of wellness for staff and students with a monthly incentive program related to 95210 We Can. Each 95210 wellness category is based on recommendations for sleeping adequately, eating fruits and vegetables, limiting screen time, increasing physical activities, and eliminating sugar-added beverages. In addition, all schools have a Tower to Table or Farm to Fork Programs to provide local produce in the cafeterias and to use for educational after-school programs. Students participate in the growing process at each school, and then the foods grown are used in the meals provided by the cafeterias.

To keep our students safe, all of our schools have locked doors with monitoring systems in place. Our guests are asked to sign in and wear identification badges at all times. In addition to our on-going training and networking with the Kentucky Center for School Safety and district leadership have worked with local first responders for drills and communication to maintain efficiency in keeping our children

safe. Through a partnership with the Barren County Sheriff's Office, our district has a full time School Resource Officer (SRO) in our buildings to assist our students and leadership teams. A S.T.O.P. tipline that allows students to anonymously report bullying, violence, and risky behavior safely and securely online is also monitored by the SRO and Director of Pupil Personnel who work with building principals to help stop and prevent these issues.

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.

As a district, our mission states "Students attending the Barren County School System will achieve success in college or post-secondary education. This will be demonstrated by providing high quality 21st century teaching that leads to learning in a healthy, safe and supportive environment. We will provide experiences and create opportunities which will ensure that our students will be prepared to embrace change in tomorrow's world." In order to fulfill our mission, we are always working to improve.

One way we measure our success as a district is by the Kentucky Unbridled Learning System. In addition, we continually look for ways to involve as many students as possible by offering a variety of programs and opportunities. Our students compete in many arts competitions, club organizations, and service projects. With the help of grant dollars, nearly 16.2 million dollars since 2004, Barren County is an innovative and award-winning district. These are our most notable achievements in the areas that address our mission statement.

Recent State Assessment Results/Achievements

1. Barren County Schools named a Distinguished School District in 2016.
2. 75% of our elementary school students are scoring proficient or distinguished in the K-PREP social studies exam.
3. Barren Co. Middle School students exceed the state average for proficient or distinguished in the areas of math, social studies, and writing.
4. BCHS exceeds state averages Proficient and Distinguished in reading, science, and social studies.
5. Barren County Kindergarten Screening Data for 2017 indicated 60.8% of entering kindergarten students scored "Ready" to enter kindergarten, compared to 50.1% in Kentucky.
6. Barren County High School Junior ACT results indicated a composite of 19.5, which was an increase of .6 over the previous year.

Arts, Business, and other Academic Achievements

1. One of our middle school students and one of our elementary students followed in the tradition set by others for the last 6 years by being selected to serve as leaders in the Junior Beta Club at

the state level. One student was named President and one named secretary of the State Beta Club. Barren County has been known for having more participation than nearly all other districts in the state. Numerous Barren County students have received honors and awards throughout the last 5 years. Many of our students compete at the state Junior Beta Convention, and those winners move on to the National level. At the Kentucky State Jr. Beta Convention two Barren County students were elected to serve in state offices for the 2017-2018 school year. They also went on to run for national office at the National Jr. Beta Convention. North Jackson Elementary's group talent placed 2nd in the state finals and represented Barren County Schools at the National Jr. Beta Convention. Austin Tracy Elementary's SongFest group also placed 2nd at the state convention and represented BC at the national convention. There were many students who represented Barren County in other divisions at the national convention including Temple Hill Elementary taking 2nd place in Banners Division I, Presley Neagle from NJE taking 1st place in Math Division I, Jack Massey receiving 1st place in Science Division I, Red Cross Elementary taking 4th place in Scrapbook Division II, William Parocai from Hiseville Elementary placed 4th in Social Studies Division I, Hillary Delaney placed 5th in Spelling Division II, BCMS Megan Shirley received 2nd place in Essay Division II, Layla Smith from Red Cross Elementary took 1st place in Fiber Arts Division I, Katherine Murphy of Hiseville Elementary earned 2nd place in Poetry Division I, Park City Elementary's Robotics team took 2nd place in Division II, Connor Wyatt from Red Cross received 4th place in Woodworking Division I and the 4th place Service Award went to Red Cross Elementary. In addition, Barren County Schools also had a large representation at the National Sr. Beta Convention from Barren County High School including Diego Perez placing 2nd in Social Studies Division I.

2. FBLA had 28 members place in 17 events at the regional competition, and 19 members place in 12 events at the state competition. FBLA continues to work closely with Judge Executive Michael Hale to promote our community, our school, and our organization by attending the KY State Fair and working the Barren County booth, participating on various community committees, and by having two accounting students (and FBLA members) help with the county's fiscal budget. FBLA continues its community service work by providing meals and gifts during the holiday season, providing Halloween Safety Day at Red Cross Elementary, and working with the Boys and Girls Club.
3. In 2017, Barren County High School Bands were named with several accolades in numerous competitions, with concert band and symphonic winds receiving straight distinguished ratings at the KMEA large ensemble assessment. Two students were selected to the Kentucky All-State Bands. One student was selected to the GSA. The marching band received one grand championship, three reserve grand championships, and 2 honorable mentions. Ultimately the band finished 5th overall in class 4A.
4. The strings program is now offered at all 7 elementary schools, the middle school, and the high school. The number of students involved continues to grow. The high school had a wonderful experience in New York playing at Carnegie Hall. Each year both the middle and high school students perform at KMEA Concert Festival receiving straight distinguished ratings on sight-reading and proficient and distinguished ratings for prepared pieces. We also have a large representation at the auditioned All-District Honors events and judged Solo and Ensemble festivals.

5. Our BCHS students earned over 2.2 million dollars in academic scholarships (excluding KEES money and athletic scholarships) in the previous year.
6. Up to 450 students in Barren County Schools may earn dual-credit in over 17 courses through Western Kentucky University (WKU), Murray State, or SKYCTC. There are currently have 13 Advanced Placement (AP) courses offered to Barren County students for college credit.
7. As of 2016, we have 5 Barren County graduates that have attended the WKU Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in addition to three students who are currently attending during the 2017-2018 school year.
8. The Barren County FFA competed November 2016 at Murray State University in the FFA State Horsemanship and Veterinarian Science CDE's. Barren County was represented very well once again. The Horsemanship Team tied for 4th in the state. Team members are Brianna Ridlen, Maddison Harrison, Maycie Dilley, Kinley Kinslow. The Veterinary Science CDE team placed 1st in the Barren River Region and 15th in the state. Veterinary Science Team members are: Grace Buchanan, Kenzie McCord, Sammie Jones, Hollie Thomas. The horse evaluation team competed at the 2017 National FFA CDE and received a Silver Rating. The Barren County FFA Glasgow Christmas Parade float received 1st place and the Grand Marshall's award. Barren County FFA also attended the Kentucky FFA Leadership Training Center and the Ky State FFA Convention last summer. Barren County FFA had numerous Barren River Region proficiency winners that went on to compete at the state level and place at the State Convention. Brandon Burks represents the Barren County FFA as the Kentucky State FFA Vice President for the 2017-2018 school year.
9. The Barren County School District was recently selected as a pilot school for the Commissioner's Computer Science Initiative in partnership with Code.org and AdvanceKY. This program provided AP Computer Science and Computer Science Discoveries training for teachers and curriculum for middle and high school students. In addition to this, two elementary schools, Red Cross and North Jackson Elementary, were selected and attended trainings to offer Computer Science Fundamentals units of instruction this school year. One teacher also attended Swift Code Training in California, hosted by Apple and is now certified to offer Swift code instruction in the Computer Science program. A STEAM lab has been developed at Red Cross Elementary to create early opportunities for Computer Science and coding through the Red Cross Early Innovators programming. Barren County High School received a PLTW Computer Science grant to pilot an additional course for CS called "Computer Science Essentials" for the 2017-2018 school year.
10. The Barren County High School PLTW Biomedical Science program is one of nine Kentucky schools that received National Certification. The program has strong community partnerships with the UofL Residency program as well as members of our local medical community. Students participate in research projects with UofL residents and have internship opportunities with the new pharmacy technician program for 4th year Biomed students. The district has also been awarded the designation of "PLTW Showcase District" and has hosted regional events to support other districts in planning their own STEM initiatives.

Additional Honors

1. Barren County was one of 75 districts from across the state that was approved for the NonTraditional Instructional program to address instruction during inclement weather 2017-2018. In the prior year's, Barren County participated in the first expansion of districts to be allowed to address learning in this way. As part of the Innovations Network, this approach allowed the district to continue learning over three days that would have been missed during previous school years.
2. The district currently has eight 21st Century Community Learning Center Grants that coordinate services & programs to extend learning more than 2 hours daily and throughout the summer. With a focus on P-3 reading intervention and other academic programs, all students are engaged in academic and enrichment opportunities beyond school hours.
3. Barren County Schools received over 20 Gold ratings in Alliance for Healthier Generation Surveys related to policy, physical and health education, nutrition services, staff wellness, and family involvement. In addition, all schools participate in Farm to School initiatives with aquaponic and hydroponic gardens with greenhouses available at most schools. Nutrition Services is also a member of Kentucky Proud.
4. Barren County Schools and Nutrition Services have partnered to create a summer reading and feeding program to combat summer academic slide and hunger when school lunches are not provided. During the past summer, the mobile bus and vans delivered over 5000 children's books and over 36,000 meals to children in need. The program is called **#BCReadsandFeeds**, and it was recently named "Neighbor Helping Neighbor" Parade winner in the school division.
5. The district strives to employ exceptional staff including sixteen National Board Certified Teachers. In addition, Barren County Middle School's Dr. Chasity Shipley was named one of 24 Valvoline Teacher Award Winners for 2017, along with North Jackson Elementary's Mrs. Molly Caswell who was named Kentucky Exceptional Education Teacher of the Year for 2016. Central Region and Barren County Migrant Director Mrs. April Willis-Harper was named the 2017 Administrator of the Year for the Kentucky State Migrant Program.

Additional Programs as an Outreach for students

1. BCHS continues to develop STEM pathways with two Project Lead the Way programs - Biomedical Sciences and Engineering. Barren County High School received a PLTW Computer Science grant to pilot an additional course for CS called "Computer Science Essentials" for the 2017-2018 school year. BCMS also has implemented a Gateway program for engineering that allows for advanced coursework for students in grades 7 & 8. The elementary pathway of PLTW Launch has elementary students participating in STEM learning as a building block to the middle and high school programs.
2. We have an active Special Olympics organization (Flames basketball team) at the local, regional, and state levels.
3. The high school and middle school now offers chorus, which is receiving local and regional recognition.
4. BCHS Fine Arts Capstone encourages students to enter WKU with advanced credits in the area of

Fine Arts.

5. The JROTC program continues to expand. Our JROTC students perform regularly during ballgames, Veteran's Day programs, and various community events. Known for a former BC student who wrote a song about military families, BC student cadets have been asked to perform the POW/MIA table ceremony at college level basketball games as well many other prestigious ceremonies.
6. "BC Live Team" is a group of 4 high school students who are live streaming BCHS events such as sports, alumni recognition, success rally's, ground breakings, etc. BCMS Live is a product of the BC Live where the high school students are mentoring middle school students in streaming events at their school. This will help to ensure a quality of students each year for both programs.

Areas of Improvement

1. We are diligently working to reduce the number of students in Barren County who are scoring in the Novice range in the areas of reading and math. To address this issue in math, 4 of our elementary schools (Park City, Red Cross, Hiseville, and Temple Hill) are part of the Math Plus Grant. Also, our district is working directly to improve the academic achievements of students who are part of the ECE population. Administrators and ECE staff are being creative with scheduling of ECE students when it comes to providing extra time to work on weak reading, math and writing skills, as well as time to address college and/or career readiness.
2. Five school leaders, and many aspiring administrators, are participating in a GRREC cohort to address professional learning for leaders in the district. This work helps to prepare our leadership teams and future leaders in researched based learning provided by some of the most noteworthy educators around the globe.
3. College and Career Readiness is a continued area of focus and concern. Barren County High School and College Street Campus will continue to implement a WIN (What I Need) class for 30 minutes daily to focus on the differentiated needs of all students. Students will engage in a variety of activities including Work Ethics/ Soft Skills, Current Events, Sustained Silent Reading, and ACT Prep sessions. Other targeted groups will participate in ongoing sessions related to meeting the various College and Career Ready benchmark and certification measures, in addition to skills remediation and intervention supports. The Phoenix Program and College Street Campus are also participating in industry tours, career and college readiness interventions and opportunities. A new College and Career Center is currently being constructed that will also provide expanded opportunities for students for college and career readiness, and all Barren County seniors will be able to apply for "Work Ethics Certification," a local certificate recognized by local industry.
4. The Barren County Board of Education, lead partner in the Barren Regional Technical Campus Project, has been awarded \$6.84 million in the first round of Kentucky Work Ready Skills Initiative funding to address local economy and job placement. The Kentucky Work Ready Skills Initiative is aimed at building a highly trained, modernized workforce in the Commonwealth to meet the needs of employers and promote sustainable incomes for Kentuckians. The Barren Regional Technical Campus Project is a long sought-after vision the Barren County regional partners have developed as a result of extensive research and development on avenues to address

the workforce and educational needs of the region. There are approximately 450 unfilled jobs in Barren County and over 6,000 vacant jobs in the South Central Kentucky region. The regional campus expansion will modernize and expand the existing Barren County Area Technology Center to provide updated equipment and added programming for students to obtain industry certifications as well as building a stronger bridge to postsecondary and employment opportunities.

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 district has a long-term strategic plan for our Board of Education. CDIP goals related to the Strategic Plan are also incorporated. Through on-going planning and focus, both plans will enhance each other and focus our district on continual improvement in the areas of staffing, student involvement, innovative and research-based instructional strategies, and fiscal management.

Through on-going maintenance and development, the Barren County Schools will enhance communication with internal and external public groups with our webpages, One Call system, Remind 101, Twitter, Instagram, and Facebook pages. The Barren County Website has been recently updated and renovated to provide state of the art information and resources, as well as added accessibility features, for the BC community. The district has launched a mobile app via the App Store and Google Store. This will give us the ability to add quick links to the most popular pages on the site and also allow for push notifications to all app users. There are currently 1675 registered app users.

Our technology & safety infrastructure is in a multi-phase upgrade process which started with security cameras, door access, telephone systems, and intercoms. This year the replacement and upgrade to internal networking and wireless access points has been the priority in order to enhance our capabilities for Bring Your Own Device (BYOD) and district devices.

Our district is one of over 75 districts throughout the state who will implement a non-traditional learning plan this school year if needed. The snowbound plan, referred to as iLearn@home has been approved for up to 10 days of instruction. However, the district plans to initially implement 5 days during the 2017-2018 school year with a reevaluation of the decision after the 5 day implementation based on the severity of the winter. Teachers have worked diligently to prepare materials and lessons that will provide quality instruction for our students in case there are multiple absences due to weather conditions.

Find out more about the Barren County Schools

On the web at - www.barren.kyschools.us

On Facebook at - <https://www.facebook.com/barrenschoools/>

On Twitter at - [@barrenschoools](https://twitter.com/barrenschoools)

On Instagram at - [barrenschoools](https://www.instagram.com/barrenschoools)