



Executive Summary

Walter Wellborn High School
Calhoun County Board of Education

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Anniston, AL 36201

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction.....	1
Description of the School.....	2
School's Purpose.....	4
Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement.....	7
Additional Information	9

Introduction

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

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

Description of the School

Describe the school's size, community/communities, location, and changes it has experienced in the last three years. Include demographic information about the students, staff, and community at large. What unique features and challenges are associated with the community/communities the school serves?

Walter Wellborn High School (WWHS) is part of the Calhoun County School System and is located at 135 Pinson Road in Anniston, Alabama. The community is located just off of Highway 202 and is adjacent to downtown Anniston and Oxford.

WWHS serves approximately 582 students in grades 7-12 and is expected to grow slightly or remain steady during the 2016-17 school year. The school is the hub of the traditionally hardworking, blue-collar community it serves. The demographic data for the school is as follows: 75.04% Free and Reduced, 79% White, 19% Black, 1% Hispanic, 1% Native American, Asian, and Multi-Race. We currently have 43 students listed as receiving or have received Gifted Education and 78 students in Special Education. Of the 78 students in Special Education, 59 are classified as having a specific learning disability, and 20 are classified as having severe cognitive delays that require more direct and constant supervision available through our pre-vocational program.

Over the past four years, WWHS has gone from a school needing improvement to consecutively making AYP per No Child Left Behind standards. Additionally, the graduation rate has increased and is expected to continue to increase due to our Career Technical offerings and flexibility as well as the implementation of the IS2 Waiver, Plan 2016, the WWHS After School program, PASS, and other Learning Supports initiatives. Students at WWHS have also experienced changes in the curriculum offered.

Curriculum changes include:

A+ College Ready - LTF

We are using the A+ College Ready grant for implementation of Laying the Foundations and Advanced Placement curricula. AP English Language, Literature, U. S. History, Government and Chemistry are offered to juniors and seniors, respectively. We are also offering pre-AP classes in English, math, and science to our ninth and tenth grade students, LTF courses to 75% of our seventh and eighth grade students, and Algebra I in eighth grade.

WWHS runs a unique schedule that allows grades 10-12 to operate on a modified block schedule while grades 7-9 meet with their Math and English classes everyday. This schedule allows us to incorporate intervention for reading and math into our daily schedule. We offer clubs to increase student involvement (ALSDE Learning Supports product). Additionally, we offer after school tutoring (funded by Title I), remediation, enrichment, and preparation for the ACT, and remediation/enrichment/support with regard to the Common Core standards. Also, a variety of Career and Technical Courses are offered and taught by Business and Industry Certified Teachers.

Our enrollment in career technical classes continues to increase due to offering career tech twice daily (rose from 71 students in 2014-15 to 110 students in 2015-16 and we currently have 128 enrolled for the 2016-2017 school year).

As a qualifying Title I School, we are able to employ a Reading Interventionist and purchase a strategies-based intervention program to target a select group of at risk students in math and in reading.

In addition to our academic offerings, changes have occurred to the physical plant of WWHS. Over the past four years, a new HVAC system was installed, a new football practice field was constructed, new scoreboards were installed on the football, softball and baseball fields, an electronic information sign was installed, air conditioning has been installed in the Waldrop gym, and phase one of two year remodel of our

Executive Summary

Walter Wellborn High School

buildings has begun. A new business technology lab was installed, a new computer lab for the middle school building was installed using donated computers from Westinghouse, a new band concession stand was built during the summer of 2014, the football press box was renovated, and campus beautification projects are currently underway by way of our Art Class and our Agriscience class. Community involvement has increased due to programs such as academic acknowledgement (i.e., Academic Teas, Baccalaureate, etc.) and social media outlets. Currently, we have added HVAC to our main gym, The Howard Waldrep Junior Sports Arena. Also ongoing is a 4.5 million dollar construction project to renovate and update the main and annex buildings. When completed, Walter Wellborn High School will look like a brand new school.

Even though the number of students attending WWHS is expected to stay steady and/or increase, the job offerings close to the community have continued to decrease. In the past three years, the Anniston Army Depot, a long-time employer of local residents, has started to cut back on hours for our stakeholders employed there. Westinghouse, a more recent employer, has completed the burning of chemicals and has moved their jobs elsewhere in the United States. Because most of our stakeholders were born and raised in the area and own property, they are reluctant to move and start over. As a direct result of a decrease in the availability of jobs, our student free and reduced count is expected to continue to rise. However, our community, as history has shown, will continue to grow stronger, grow closer, and overcome life's obstacles. We will not fail to instill a strong work ethic and a never quit attitude in all our young people.

School's Purpose

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

School's Purpose Statement:

Walter Wellborn High School's purpose is to prepare our students to be college and career ready. We provide all students with the opportunity to gain an education which is suited to their individual needs regardless of race, sex, or socioeconomic status.

Vision

Every Walter Wellborn High School graduate will be college and career ready.

Walter Wellborn High School Beliefs

- Students should be provided with the opportunity to gain an education that is suited to their individual needs.
- Students learn most effectively in a safe and healthy environment.
- Community resources, the school staff, student commitment, and the home contribute to the development of student learning.
- Students should be disciplined to attend school regularly, without tardiness, and be prepared to learn.
- Teachers have the responsibility to promote students' abilities to become rational thinkers, problem solvers, and assume responsibility for their actions.
- Teachers should be exemplary with concern for morality and ethics.
- Administrators should provide leadership, discipline, and academic guidance.
- The community should provide financial support and give positive reinforcement to the educational process.

Walter Wellborn High School's commitment to excellence is very simple and can be divided into four categories with descriptions of how our school embodies each one:

1. Cleanliness

- Interior - maintain two active custodians, daily inspections, cleaning regimen, and high standards of care
- Exterior - faculty, staff, and students assist with actively scanning for debris and trash and disposing of items found. Maintain an active landscape management, horticulture, and agri-science class to assist with landscape management and design around the campus

2. Safety and Security

- Maintain an active school resource officer during the school day and at extra-curricular events
- Regular drug dog inspections
- Proactive bullying/harassment policies and procedures
- Regular drills (fire, severe weather, intruder, etc.)
- Strengthening home-school connections
- Family Linc Program and Services
- Connected through Virtual Alabama

Executive Summary

Walter Wellborn High School

- Connection with local agencies and our director of safety and security through 800mgz radios

3. Academics

- Continuous Improvement
- Continuous improvement planning via ASSIST ACIP
- District accreditation process through AdvancED (Spring of 2014)
- Diagnostics and Benchmarks via STAR and ASPIRE Interim
- State and Federal Monitoring Process (completed Fall of 2013)
- Curriculum
- Data Meetings and Gap Analysis
- College and Career Readiness Standards and Quality Core
- Career Technical offerings via the Calhoun County Career Technical Center and local school
- IS2 Waiver Implementation and PLAN 2016
- Project-based Learning
- ARI Strategic Teaching
- Bring Your Own Device Initiative (Power Up)
- Advance Placement
- Kuder and Career Preparedness Program
- Learning Supports Initiative
- Professional Development, Support, and Retention
- Educator Effectiveness
- LEAD
- Administrative walkthroughs
- Targeted Professional Development based on data from Educator Effectiveness, and LEAD
- Accountability
- Transcript and four-year plan audits
- Accountability portal and Cohort data
- Financial Audits
- Reports to stakeholders via school website
- ACT ASPIRE, ACT, and Work Keys test scores, A-F report card
- Yearly attendance and discipline reports
- Office of Civil Rights report
- Alabama Ethics Commission Report
- Quality Core Assessments (ASPIRE, ACT, and Work Keys)
- ASSIST ACIP
- ACCESS for ELLs
- AP Exams

4. Extra-curricular activities

- Football
- Volleyball
- Cheerleading
- Girls' and Boys' Basketball
- Wrestling

Executive Summary

Walter Wellborn High School

- Baseball
- Softball (Achievement in 2013 - softball team made the State playoffs)
- Track and Field
- Golf
- Swim Team
- Special Olympics
- Band
- Choir
- Art (Achievement in 2013-14 - art class contributed to school beautification initiative)
- FFA
- FCCLA
- Student Government Association
- Scholars' Bowl
- Abundant Life (Christian Club)
- Drama
- Robotics
- FBLA
- News Team (Panther News Network)
- FTA
- Music Club (Highlander Club)
- Math Team
- Key Club
- Spanish Club

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.

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Notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years:

1. WWHS has made AYP for the past three years.
2. Change to modified block schedule assisted in decreasing disciplinary referrals, allows time to earn more credits, and time for remediation/enrichment
3. Athletic programs have improved across the board (playoffs seven years running in football, three years running in softball, one year in baseball, State Tournament in Wrestling, twenty athletes to State Tournament in track, and wins have increased in volleyball and basketball.
4. Parent communication has improved with the use of a school website, INow Home Portal for student progress, Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, and School Cast automated calling system.
5. Wi-Fi ports installed throughout campus
6. Added over 300 devices for student use throughout the school (classrooms affected: all of Math, all of ELA, one science, one social studies, and our library)
7. The number of students attending career tech increased from 71 students in 2014-15 school year to 110 in 2015-16 and we currently have 128 enrolled in the 2016-2017 school year.
8. Won an A+ College Ready Grant in 2015-16 to assist in increasing the availability of college preparatory courses available at WWHS. We were a pipeline school in 2014-2015 for the same program. The program grant will span three years from this year.
9. We met our local indicator last year - decreased overall disciplinary referrals by 40% (our original goal was to decrease by 3%).

Goals for the next three years:

1. Improve technology available to students and increase knowledge of BYOD best practices and tools
2. Move beyond the requirement for textbooks
3. Utilize project-based learning across the curriculum
4. All students College and Career Ready in accordance with PLAN 2020
5. Continue to increase the number of students attending Career Tech
6. Utilize ACT Aspire and Kuder systems to plan for College and Career
7. Increase the availability of college preparatory courses available at WWHS (Laying the Foundations in grades 7-8, Pre-AP in grades 9-10, and AP in grades 11-12).
8. Focus on increasing attendance and decreasing unexcused absences.
9. Implement a new evaluation system for teachers - Educator Effectiveness.
10. Continue implementation of a positive behavior intervention and supports system (i.e., CHAMPS).

Executive Summary

Walter Wellborn High School

11. Increase the number of students scoring proficient on the ACT and ACT Aspire

Additional Information

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

Current tools/methods are underway to ensure students will be college and career ready when they leave WWHS:

1. Kuder Assessment System
2. ASPIRE Interim (benchmarking and formative assessment tools)
3. Quality Core Materials (ACT & ASPIRE)
4. Career Technical programs available locally and at the Calhoun County Career Tech Center
5. Career Preparedness Course (taught in eighth and ninth grade)
6. Senior Project (portfolio required of Seniors containing college and career ready materials)
7. Stride Academy
8. STAR
9. Credentialing (Business programs offer Microsoft Office Specialist (MOS) certifications)
10. Read 180 - research based reading intervention program purchased through Title I to assist students who test low in reading skills.
11. Math 180 - research based reading intervention program purchased through Title I to assist students who test low in math skills.
12. After School Tutoring