



Kentucky Community Schools- Local Impact Tracking Sheet-

*** Promising Practices are marked with a star.** These efforts have demonstrated measurable improvements in student outcomes or school climate even if the current sample size is small. We identify the other strategies as *emerging practices*, meaning the right conditions are in place for improvement, but outcome data is not yet available.

District	Strategies and Key Partners	Top Stories of Impact
Bracken County <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taylor Elementary • Bracken County Middle 	<p><i>Key Strategies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendance Brag Tags • Student Interest Clubs • Vision Screenings • Welding Club <p><i>Key Partners:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • UPike Vision Staff • Walmart Vision Center • 4-H • Local businesses • Families <p><i>Total # of Active Community Partners: 40</i></p>	<p>*After-school Student Interest Clubs, from aviation and cooking to welding, grew from 97 to 123 students in just one semester, with 88 joining for the first time. Supported by 4-H, teachers, high school mentors, community members, and Skool Aid, these clubs boost attendance, reduce behavior issues, and help students build skills, confidence, and stronger school connections. Taylor Elementary saw a 30% drop in behavior incidents reported to the office, falling from 130 in 2023–24 to 76 in 2024–25. Their year-end percentage of students with behavior incidents also improved, moving from 88.89% to 78.82%. At Bracken County Middle School, the percentage of students with full-time enrollment in Afterschool Clubs increased from 40.62% to 44.69%.</p> <p>*Attendance Brag Tags celebrates students who miss one day or less each month. Those who earn a tag are recognized and get to spin the prize wheel at lunch for rewards that match their interests. The goal is to collect all 9 given in a school year. Since launching Brag Tags, Taylor Elementary has experienced 60 fewer chronically absent students, and Bracken County Middle</p>

has seen a drop of 61. One student summed it up best: “It wasn’t the prizes that mattered, it was knowing someone cared that we were there.” (Grades 3 and 8 Reading and Math)

Carter County

- Olive Hill Elementary
- Prichard Elementary

Key Strategies:

- Visions screenings
- Communication plan with families and community
- After School Clubs/Activities

Key Partners:

- 4-H
- Extension Office
- Kentucky College of Optometry

Total # of Active Community Partners: **30**

***Vision Services:** Lack of vision services was identified as a need in the first community meeting. Now, UPIKE Kentucky College of Optometry students conduct vision screenings for 3rd & 5th grade students. The District Nurse contacts families whose children are referred to an Optometrist to determine if they needed assistance with follow-up. During the 2024-25 school year, 39 families reported that they had followed up with an optometrist. Of that 39, 56% of students had an equal or greater GRAD score, 49 % of students had an equal or greater attendance score, and 77% of students had an equal or greater curriculum score.

***After School Opportunities Expanded through community partnerships:** The 4-H Youth Development Extension Agent coordinated and provided leadership for S.T.E.M. Club and Cooking Club after-school programs. 39% of students who attended after-school clubs/activities showed an increase in their GRAD score^[1].

As this is the first year for collecting data for vision screenings and after-school programs, the 2024-25 school year data will be used as a baseline.

Clark County

- Conkwright Elementary

Key Strategies:

- Afterschool programs in two schools
- Volleyball team in elementary

***Afterschool Programs:** Baker is providing opportunities for students to explore their passions and interests through 15 diverse after-school clubs, and Conkwright’s after-school program is providing services to over 100 students. These

- Baker Intermediate

Key Partners:

- Clark County Health Department
- Clark County Library
- Extension Office
- Partners in Education
- Winchester Police Department

Total # of Active Community Partners: **40**

students are building valuable social skills and positive relationships through fun and engaging activities with peers and adults. Data indicates the implementation of afterschool clubs has boosted attendance, not only in the clubs by 300% but also regular school day for those participating. Volunteers contributed over 2230 hours from July 2024 to May 2025 to implement this strategy.

Community Impact Center: The McClure building, formerly a Clark County elementary school, is transforming into an unparalleled opportunity to invest in the intellectual, creative, and social well-being of our community. This initiative will not only serve as a valuable civic asset but will transform the space into a beacon of learning and creativity for generations to come. This community center will sustain programming from prenatal to elderly, including yoga, music and dance lessons, computer lab, mental health services, immunization clinics, recreation opportunities, physical fitness for all ages, adult education, art and crafts, and more!

Christian County

- Freedom Elementary
- Christian County High

Key Strategies:

- Parent engagement efforts are led by Parent Leaders
- After School Clubs
- High Schools Mentors for College and Career Prep
- Cell Phone Pouch Program

Key Partners:

- Edgewood Baptist Church
- New Work Fellowship Baptist Church

***Community Mentors for High School Graduates:** Community partners help seniors set priorities and create goals for their post-graduation plans through activities like mock interviews, resume writing, and personal finance guidance, students gained valuable skills & clarity about their future. 100% of graduating seniors were noted as post-secondary ready by December 2024.

***After School Clubs:** After school programs were offered with the help of community members to address behavior referrals, chronic absenteeism, and to improve academic performance in reading and math. Data shows behavior referrals have decreased

- First United Methodist Church
- West Side Neighborhood Association
- Huck's
- Pop Fastners
- Hopkinsville Water Environment Authority
- Hopkinsville Police Dept.
- UK Extension Office

Total # of Active Community Partners:36

when compared to last year and throughout the '24-'25 school year, attendance in after school clubs increased. Behavior Referrals for the 23-24 SY – 844, 24-25 SY – 498 (decreased by 346).

Covington

- Holmes Middle
- Holmes High

Key Strategies:

- ParTEEN Program
- New Student Enrollment Initiative
- Mental Health Services for uninsured

Key Partners:

- Brighton Center HIPPY Program
- Kenton County Public Library
- New Hope Center
- Chapman Childcare Facility

Total # of Active Community Partners: 11

***Mental Health Supports:** Students and families have access to mental health services through the school, including appointment scheduling, group sessions, and family information nights on available supports. Among the 41 participants, there has been a 32% increase in students' ability to focus on schoolwork as a result of these interventions. This is gathered from teacher surveys done before and after students have used mental health services.

ParTEEN Program: A prenatal/parenting support group offers valuable information and resources on parenting, managing time/finances, and balancing parenting responsibilities with personal goals. Students say they learned so much about themselves and their children, but also that they aren't alone in everything. Teen Parents received over 25 hours of training from 13 different community providers throughout the year. Participants experienced a 22% decrease in behavior referrals decreased, a 10% reduction in student absences, and a 24% decrease in failing grades. The best part of the group is the

relationships that form between the teen parents and community members.

Danville Independent

- Toliver Intermediate
- Bate Middle

Danville High

Key Strategies:

- Community Learning Walks
- Social-Emotional Support—Zen Zone Kits
- Career Exploration
- Capstone & Gateway Presentations

Key Partners:

- Local Extension office
- Bluegrass Career and Technical College
- City of Danville
- Whitaker Bank
- Plaid Elephant Bookstore
- Grace Church

Total # of Active Community Partners: **35**

Community Learning Walks are led by middle and high school student ambassadors. A total of 18 different community members and organizations toured both Toliver Intermediate and Danville High School, giving them a firsthand look at academics and extracurriculars. Visitors left with a deeper understanding of modern classrooms such as seeing technology like iReady in action, small-group instruction, and the breadth of Career and Technical Education pathway opportunities. The experience not only built school pride among students but also sparked new community connections, including the Kentucky Career Center reaching out after their tour to create co-op opportunities for students. The initiative’s early success has now led to expansion into a third school with families and community members already reaching out to participate.

Capstones and Gateway Presentations were hosted by approximately 400 Danville students highlighting the school’s Portrait of a Learner and the value of a well-rounded education. Fifty community members served as panelists, 83% for the first time, offering feedback and support. The presentations gave students real-world practice in public speaking, while panelists praised their knowledge, engagement, and confidence, noting that many exceeded expectations for their grade level.

Daviess

- Burns Elementary
- Burns Middle

Key Strategies:

- Kindergarten Intervention
- Wrap Around PreSchool
- Bobcat Squad
- Bobcat Breakfast
- Girls on the Run
- Guys and Ties

Key Partners:

- Chamber Young Professionals and Chamber of Commerce
- Independence Bank
- Public Life Foundation
- Daviess County Public Library
- River Valley Behavioral Health
- GoodFellows

Total # of Active Community Partners: 50

***Preschool Wrap Around** - provides a safe, nurturing, play-based environment that extends the learning from our preschool classrooms while reducing transportation and childcare barriers for families. With four dedicated staff serving ten students, children enjoy social interactions, engaging learning centers, and a familiar routine, while guest readers from community partners visit every other Friday to share stories, careers, and resources. This blend of consistent care, enriched play, and community connection helps our youngest learners thrive socially, emotionally, and academically. Students enrolled in the wraparound program during the 2024-25 were more likely to enter Kindergarten ready to learn compared with their peers.

Guys and Ties - is a yearlong mentoring program for eighth-grade boys who need a little extra encouragement, pairing them with male members of Chamber Young Professionals for personal growth and life-skill sessions on topics like budgeting, professional development, and entrepreneurship. With a volunteer to student ratio of just over 1:2, the young men build meaningful connections with mentors who invest in their future. At the end of the year, each student is celebrated with a custom-fitted sportscoat, new shoes, pants, and shirt, plus an heirloom tie from a local business legend, and they graduate in front of more than 200 community leaders at the May Rooster Booster meeting. We anticipate 12 to 14 young men to graduate in May. In previous years, students who graduated from Guys in Ties reported feeling more confident as they began their high school careers and found support in their community relationships.

Dayton

- Dayton High
- Lincoln Elementary

Key Strategies:

- On Campus Health Center
- City Park Improvements
- Backpack Program
- Family Super Reader Nights

Key Partners:

- City of Dayton
- Campbell County Library
- HealthPoint
- North Key
- Cincinnati Children’s Hospital

Total # of Active Community Partners: **55**

***Super Reader Nights:** 90% of Lincoln Elementary students whose families attended Family Super Reader Nights have maintained or improved their reading levels. These nights equip parents with classroom reading strategies, allowing families to support learning at home. These programs are being expanded during the 2025-26 school year to increase participation across grade levels to build capacity to continue improving student outcomes.

On-Campus Health Center: Students, families and staff can be seen on campus twice a week by a licensed nurse practitioner. Removing the barrier to access healthcare has reduced absenteeism and tardiness, providing health and dental care at discounted rate has addressed income/economic concerns and, increased student success related to routine medical, vision and dental, needs being met. In the 2024-25 school year, the health clinic served 253 people, providing 522 medical appointment services. During the same period, the dental clinic served 169 students, providing 314 visits including preventive and treatment services.

Fayette County

- Millcreek Elementary
- Northern Elementary

Key Strategies:

- Tuesday Talks- Parent Meet-Ups
- Family Leadership Training for ELL Families
- Community Pop-Up Events

Key Partners:

- Toyota
- Grace United Church
- Tates Creek Presbyterian Church

Community Pop-Ups: Are being orchestrated to take school staff to the surrounding school neighborhoods to create a space to bring the school and families/students together outside of the school building. The goal is to increase family/student trust, enjoy food, provide resources, and gather feedback from families to continue working collaboratively to meet specific needs. The largest Community Pop Up was held at a lower income apartment complex across the street from Millcreek Elementary. Approximately 107 parents and children attended this event. The Millcreek principal, several staff and 5 community

- Gethsemane Church
 - Operation Make a Change (OMAC)
 -
- Total # of Active Community Partners: **25**

partners helped with games and provided information about transportation, kindergarten registration, and other community resources. The Bates Creek Church Coalition was formed after several conversations with our Community Pop Up partners from Grace United and Bates Creek Presbyterian Church during this event. Over 15 churches are now aboard to participate and partner with the Millcreek community.

- Hopkins County**
- Browning Springs Middle
 - Madisonville High
 - North Hopkins High

- Key Strategies:*
- Lunch and Learns
 - New After School Arts Programs
 - Family Engagement
 - Amazing Shake Academy
 - Guys & Girls Mentoring Program
- Key Partners:*
- Hopkins County Courthouse
 - Community artists and musicians
 - YMCA
 - Chamber of Commerce
 - Economic Development
 - City and County Government
- Total # of Active Community Partners: **150**

***After School Arts Program Supported by Community Partners** is expanding this year to include all middle and high school students in the district, with weekly sessions in both visual arts and music. The program is hosted at the Historic Hopkins County Court House after school and features guest artists and musicians. Dinner is provided at no cost. In the 2024-2025 school year, 50% of students reported the program as beneficial to their mental health and 55% of students had an increase in their grades, attendance, or behavior. One student even reported, “I finally found my people.”

***Guys & Girls Mentoring Program** is a mentoring program at Madisonville North Hopkins High School and is making a big impact on students while supporting the school’s Multi-Tiered Systems of Support strategies. The guys and girls groups, averaging 15 students each, have met four times in 2025 to focus on leadership, self-confidence, goal setting, and college and career opportunities. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive with 81% of students reported the groups as engaging and beneficial, and 71% have already shown improvements in grades, attendance, and behavior.

Jefferson County

- Academy at Shawnee (6-12)
- McFerran Preparatory (Elem.)

Key Strategies:

- Family Engagement Initiatives
- Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation
- Mentoring Supports
- Parent Leadership

Key Partners:

- Evolve 502
- I Would Rather Be Reading
- Neighborhood Place
- Peace Education Program
- Dare to Care

Total # of Active Community Partners: 15

Family & Community Engagement: Over the past year, we have made a strong, intentional commitment to increasing family and community engagement at The Academy at Shawnee, more than tripling the number of opportunities for families to connect with the school. These efforts are creating stronger relationships between families and staff, helping parents feel more welcomed, informed, and involved in their students' education. Chronic absenteeism dropped 9% from month one last year to month one this year, evidence that our family engagement initiatives are making a real difference in supporting consistent student attendance. This momentum has even led to the successful launch of our own PTSA. Currently, we have a 100% increase in membership from last year of parents, teachers and students who have joined. The community's support has also strengthened, with partners stepping up in new ways to help foster connection and collaboration. One of our partners quoted this after one of our events-" This was an AMAZING event. All staff were welcoming and helpful. LOVED having a DJ and being offered food. We were able to deepen our relationship with the Shawnee staff and students, while connecting with other community organizations."

***Donuts with Grownups at McFerran:** The "Donuts with Grownups" event is a vital new family engagement initiative designed to strengthen the school community by fostering connections and providing families with essential resources. For our special kindergarten edition, we focused on attendance with our school social worker, and our partner Evolve 502 provided information on broader family engagement, alongside

additional resources that may be beneficial to families. By empowering families and building a stronger, more collaborative community, this initiative aims to support our mission to improve student outcomes across three critical domains: behavior, attendance, and academics. Feedback from the event indicated that 94.8% have a better understanding of how school attendance impacts their child’s learning, 89.5% has a stronger sense of belonging to the school community and 100% feels more confident in their ability to engage in their child’s education. The school’s chronic absenteeism dropped 4% (from 23-24 school year to 24-25 school year).

McCracken County

- McCracken County High
- Reidland Elementary

Key Strategies:

- United Way Mentor Groups
- JAG
- Ford NGL Academy Model
- Community Career Wall
- Kindergarten MTSS
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Key Partners:

- Chamber of Commerce
- Wealth Management
- WKCTC
- River Industry (Ingram, Marquette, HFL)
- Reidland Baptist, Salt and Light
- Grace Point, REST, Rosebower
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Total # of Active Community Partners: **100+**

***Freshman Academy/Ford NGL:** This school year, 497 freshmen enrolled in Freshman Academy, where every single student connected with a caring adult mentor and was supported by 25+ community partners. Students say they feel a stronger sense of belonging; mentors are building deeper, more meaningful relationships, and parents see their kids stepping into high school with confidence about the future. The results are clear: attendance keeps climbing (93.9% → 94.4% → 95.3%), behavior is improving with fewer students involved and more targeted support in place, and students are beginning to thrive. Freshman Academy is also the foundation of our Ford NGL transformation, moving us toward a full Academy model that will allow us to be more intentional with community partnerships and create a clearer path to meet student needs post-secondary. In other words, Freshman Academy isn’t just helping students start high school, it’s building the bridge to the Academy model and

ensuring that every student is set up to succeed in life after graduation.

Interactive Community Walls at McCracken County High School and Reidland Elementary have turned blank walls into gateways of opportunity. The Career Wall at the high school highlights 60 local career paths, complete with QR codes that let students share their interests and connecting them to a career coach and to academy coaches with Ford NGL, launching in 2026. It also gives community partners a direct line to students, helping us build long-term, meaningful partnerships. At the elementary, the Community Resource Wall showcases 20 local nonprofits and links families to the MyKY app through QR codes, making it easier than ever to access support. With QR-enabled business cards extending these walls beyond the school, both projects ensure families and students are connected, supported, and prepared for the future.

***Summer Work Program with Jobs for America (JAG)** is in its second year and has grown from 45 to 60 students, giving more young people the chance to connect with their future. This year alone, students engaged with 15 guest speakers, explored local opportunities through four field trips, and 8 students gained real-world job experience, earning \$10 an hour up to 40 hours a week. The results speak for themselves: 100% of seniors graduated, 15 of 17 participating seniors are headed to college or employment, and 80% of the class passed all their courses. JAG isn't just a program—it's a launchpad for success.

Owensboro Independent

- Foust Elementary
- Owensboro Middle
- District Wide

Key Strategies:

- Build Her Crown: Self-Esteem for Middle School Girls
- Parent Leadership Academy
- Homework Diner
- Community Supported Extended School Services
- 2nd Grade Reading Club

Key Partners:

- Multiple local business owners
- Independence Bank
- River Valley Behavioral Health
- Chamber of Commerce
- UK Extension Office
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Total # of Active Community Partners: 75

***Build Her Crown** is an initiative designed for middle school girls to boost self-esteem and create a positive school culture. Since its launch, it has reached approximately 600 students through monthly assemblies led by community partners. A smaller, more intensive group was formed for about 15 girls identified as at risk due to high absenteeism and frequent behavioral incidents. Over time, a total of 30 girls have participated in this group, achieving nearly a 50% reduction in both absenteeism and behavior issues. Both the large monthly gatherings and the small-group sessions are led entirely by local community organizations and local, women business owners, reinforcing strong connections between students and the wider community.

Homework Diner – Bringing Families Back to the Table - Since last school year, 9 Homework Dinners have turned the school cafeteria into a lively hub of learning, connection, and community. Each night, 75 to 100 students and their families come together to share a meal served by local community partners, including banks, churches, and the Chamber of Young Professionals, with additional food support from local donors. While families enjoy dinner together, teachers model homework help strategies, showing parents how to support learning at home. This year, the Diner has expanded to include family-friendly activities such as board games, creating even more opportunities for meaningful interaction between students, families, and teachers, a feature that has quickly become a favorite. The Homework Diner not only reconnects families with the school but also models engagement and supportive learning behaviors in a warm, inviting environment. The program

continues to grow, with enthusiastic community partners stepping up to support and fund future events, ensuring that no one goes without a seat at the table. Nearly 95% of families attending the event stated the Diner helped them support their child’s education at home.

Paducah Independent

- Morgan Elementary
- Tilghman High

Key Strategies:

- Bobby Jones Summer Youth Work Program
- Morgan After School Program
- Community Mentoring & Collaboration
- Student & Community Leadership Groups
- Student Coaching for academic and behavior success

Key Partners-

- The City of Paducah
- Paducah Parks & Recreation
- Oscar Cross Boys & Girls Club
- West KY Workforce Development Board
- The George Wilson Safety Foundation
- The Community Growth Legacy Foundation

Total Number of Active Community Partners: **58**

***Bobby Jones Summer Youth Work Program** is an 8-week, work-based learning initiative that connects students with local employers aligned to their career interests, providing hands-on experience, essential job skills, professional networking, and paid employment. Over two years, 20 students completed the program, all achieving “Career Ready” status through their work-based learning hours. In Year One, 9 students earned approximately \$34,000, with 5 offered co-op positions for the 2024–25 school year; in Year Two, 11 students earned around \$42,000, with 5 continuing in co-op roles during the current school year. Altogether, students earned nearly \$64,000 while gaining valuable experience and building strong career networks, and the program has helped create robust talent pipelines for local employers. With enrollment expected to double in Year Three, the program’s impact is set to grow even further.

***Morgan After School Program**, in partnership with Paducah Parks & Recreation along with other community agencies, provides a safe, enriching environment for an average of 30 students. In 2024–25 school year, these students achieved a 95%+ attendance rate and fewer behavioral incidents compared to peers. Teachers noted improved homework completion and student confidence, while families reported greater satisfaction

with school support services. The program also served over 4,000 dinners, an essential resource for a school where over 90% of students qualify for free or reduced lunch and became a hub for family engagement through events and workshops. These outcomes reflect the program’s core goals of boosting attendance, reducing behavior issues, and strengthening school-community connections. Looking ahead to 2025–26, the program plans to expand student participation and introduce new club offerings aligned with student interests.

Rockcastle County

- Rockcastle County High
- Rockcastle County Middle

Key Strategies:

- Rock Nation: We’re All in This Together- improving Community partnership & Pride
- Parent Support Group
- It Pays To Come To School- Community Support for Perfect Attendance
- Plinko Chips for your ABC's Improving School attendance

Key Partners:

- Local banks
- Local fast-food restaurants
- Kiwinas
- Retired Teachers
- Lions Club
- Hospital
- Chamber of Commerce
- Parents (8-10 active at each school)

Total # of Active Community Partners: 20

ROCK Nation – Building Community and School Pride. On the last Friday of each month, schools and community members show Rocket pride by wearing ROCK gear. The PR team visits participating partners to capture photos and share them publicly, celebrating their support. A giant banner highlights that everyone is on the same team and that it truly takes a village. The initiative began with two partners and adds two more each month. By the end of September, 10 partners will be wearing ROCK gear on the last Friday, sending photos that demonstrate how the entire community is rallying behind local schools. Additional partners will continue to join each month until everyone in the community is part of ROCK Nation.

Attendance Incentives: Community partners donated all materials to build Plinko Boards (think Price is Right). Students in our Future Farmers of America designed and built the boards. Prizes on the bottom are donated by other businesses in the community. Example: Gift Cards to Wendy's, Gas Cards etc. Chips to drop on boards are earned based on the attendance,

behavior, and course performance outcomes of students. Businesses have been willing to donate and give shout outs to students for their good work and have had a positive impact on students' awareness of the incentive program launching in October.

Rowan County

- Clearfield Elementary
- Rowan County Senior High

Key Strategies:

- Family Engagement Nights
- UPike Vision Day Screening
- Businesses Supporting Attendance Incentives
- ParentPowered Parent Support App

Key Partners:

- UK St. Claire Regional Hospital
- Multiple Community volunteers
- Morehead State University
- Stockyards Bank
- Rowan Chamber of Commerce
- Rowan County Public Library

Total # of Active Community Partners: 26

***School Health Plus provided telehealth services** to 291

Rowan County students, keeping 260 of them in class after their visits. Only 13 required in-clinic care, and 18 went home, meaning most students got the care they needed without missing school, and parents didn't have to miss work. Chronic absenteeism dropped districtwide from 27.95% to 24.56%, with Clearfield Elementary seeing a drop from 23.27% to 15.89%. The program also supported 23 staff members, and with plans to expand, even more students, families, and teachers will benefit from convenient, on-site care.

***ParentPowered App** is a family engagement app that sends monthly, age-specific tips and activities in each family's home language to support their child's learning and development. In Rowan County, 502 families are now enrolled, covering children from ages 3-11, an increase of 64% enrolled from last year. Survey results show the impact is clear: 100% of families reported finding the texts helpful or very helpful, 83% said they do ParentPowered activities with their child at least once a week, and 90% said the app has directly helped their children learn and grow.

Scott County

- Garth Elementary
- Southern Elementary

Key Strategies:

- Buffalo Learning Labs
- Strong Fathers, Strong Families- Academic Improvement
- Afternoon Car Rider Chats

Key Partners:

- Georgetown College of Education
- Toyota Driving Possibilities
 - Georgetown Men's Association
 - Georgetown Community Hospital
 - Lola's Laundry
 - Girl Scouts

Total # of Active Community Partners: 13

***Buffalo Learning Labs** boosts math achievement through school-community partnerships that provide free afterschool care, college mentors, and whole child support. Results show 100% of students improved from their math pre-assessment, with 83% showing iReady growth averaging 28 points (up from 24 the prior year). Most notably, 7 students who began the year below grade level are now on grade level in math, including a 4th grader who advanced from 3rd-grade skills to 6th-grade proficiency in several areas and two 5th graders who started at a 3rd-grade level and finished the year on grade level.

Strong Fathers, Strong Families engages fathers and male caregivers in their children’s education through school-based events that promote connection, role modeling, and learning support. Over the year, more than 400 father figures participated, with events ranging from reading and math nights to a STEM showcase. Surveys showed that 86% of participants found the events engaging and helpful in understanding how to support their child’s learning at home. Meals were provided by a local business, and a local coffee store donated coffee for early morning events.

Car Rider Chats turned afternoon dismissal into an opportunity for connection. Staff met families right in the car rider line, creating quick but meaningful conversations that built trust and strengthened communication. The effort reached every family in line, with 95% reporting satisfaction with school communication. Families shared clear feedback—preferring Dojo and Facebook, asking for a Month-at-a-Glance calendar, and requesting earlier notice of volunteer opportunities. With

minimal prep (flyers and handouts), the strategy not only introduced staff and highlighted events but also elevated diverse family voices across the school community. Car Rider Chats proved to be a low-cost, high-impact way to engage families and deepen school-family relationships. To ensure as many voices are heard as possible, we invite central office staff to assist with data collection. We also include members of our Driving Possibilities team, helping families become more familiar with the staff connected to these initiatives.

Shelby County

- Simpsonville Elementary
- East Middle

Key Strategies:

- The Magic School Bus- Summer Program
- Project Read
- Extended School Services
- Bobcat Farms

Key Partners:

- Simpsonville Parks & Recreation
- Simpsonville Baptist church
- Adventure Club
- Shelby Christian Church
- 22 community members serving as mentors

Total # of Active Community Partners: 150

Magic School Bus is a summer program hosted by Shelby County Public Schools in partnership with Simpsonville Parks & Recreation. The bus visits different public parks across the county, bringing free learning and recreational activities directly to neighborhood children for 4 weeks during the summer. On average, 76 students participated each day, engaging in enrichment opportunities led by district staff, including certified teachers and support personnel. One teacher stated, “We used to go all over the county, Bagdad, Waddy, behind Hardees, trailer parks etc. Students that had no transportation could get to those sites. We had 2 buses at different locations each week and we often did it for 4 weeks.” [Magic School Bus Video](#)

***Bobcat Farms:** In the ‘24-’25 school year, 270 elementary students in Shelby County got their hands in the dirt through Bobcat Farms during the school day. Sixteen joined the Gardening Club after school, and 17 kept the learning going in Summer Workshops. Teachers are seeing the difference: “The observed student engagement was off the charts. Students

quickly asked if we could grow enough lettuce to eat for lunch. I love that they are interested and excited!”

Warren County

- Jennings Creek Elementary
- Moss Middle

Key Strategies:

- WCPS School Bus Donation To Warren County Parks & Recreation
- World Tour Club
- Vaping Education Class
- PEM Meetings

Key Partners:

- Warren County Parks & Recreation
- Parents
- WCPS Refugee Advocates
- LifeSkills

Total # of Active Community Partners: 38

Expanding Family Access Through Transportation Partnerships

Warren County Schools donated an extra bus to Parks and Recreation to help transport its students and families to after-hours community sports leagues and school-hosted community and family events. This partnership will support 1,300 students and enhance eight family and community events already on the calendar. Transportation barriers have limited participation in the past because buses could only transport students, not families. For example, only six elementary students in this area signed up for basketball last year compared to 30-40 at schools without transportation issues. Removing this barrier allows more children and families to engage in sports, school activities, and community opportunities, strengthening connections, and building family engagement.

PEM (Parent Engagement Meetings):

In spring 2025, Jennings Creek Elementary partnered with the Family Enrichment Center to offer Parent Engagement Meetings (PEMs) to families whose students were approaching chronic absenteeism or were already truant. These meetings focused on explaining the district attendance policy and collaborating with parents to identify and remove barriers to regular school attendance.

In November 2024, the school’s chronic absenteeism rate was **15.3%**, which increased to **16.9%** by May 2025. During fall 2025, **21 PEM meetings** were held with families. Following these interventions, the chronic absenteeism rate decreased to **10.7% in November 2025** and further declined to **9.86% in December 2025**.

Washington County

- North Washington Elementary
- Washington County Elementary

Key Strategies:

- Commander Ready Mentor Program
- WC Summer Launch Program
- Attendance Campaign
- Commander Ready Special Class
-

Key Partners:

- The Springfield State Bank
- BK Store, Walmart, Toyotomi
- Hale-Polin Robinson Funeral Home
- All American Plumbing
- Healthy Kids Clinic
- SWEDA
- WC Extension Office
- ECTC
- Communicare
- 35+ Career Community Speakers and Mentors
- 27 Community Mentos

Total # of Active Community Partners: 70

***Commander Ready Mentor Program** is a game-changer, transforming student lives by building confidence, fostering leadership, and igniting a passion for their future. Through weekly 30–60-minute meetings, dedicated community mentors from diverse backgrounds celebrate achievements and guide students to step outside their comfort zones. This personalized support has led to incredible results: an 80% increase in self-confidence and a 75% improvement in GRAD score^[1] among the 27 students currently in the program. By connecting students with caring adults, the program not only boosts confidence but also provides a safe space for them to build healthy, lasting connections that open doors to a world of possibilities.

***Attendance Campaign:** This year, Washington County Elementary and North Washington Elementary teamed up with local businesses and partners to tackle chronic absenteeism. Incentives and supports from groups like Healthy Kids Clinic and Communicare, and a strong Truancy Diversion Team made a big difference. WCES rewarded 171 students for strong attendance, while NWES made 26 referrals to connect families with resources. The results speak for themselves: chronic

absenteeism dropped 9.19% at NWES and 6.48% at WCES. When our community shows up, so do our students.

- [1] The **GRAD (Graduation-Related Analytic Data) Score** is assigned to *every student* in Kentucky via the **Early Warning System** in Infinite Campus by Kentucky Department of Education. It's a **single numerical indicator** that estimates each student's risk of dropping out and their likelihood of graduating. The score is based on a wide range of student-specific data, including attendance, behavior, grades, enrollment history, demographics, test scores, guardian involvement, household characteristics, school type, and more. [Learn more here](#)