



KENTUCKY COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

Building a **GROUNDWELL**

in partnership with the Prichard Committee

“In partnership with families and communities, all Rocket Learners are supported, encouraged, guided and transformed into Rocket Leaders.”

Rockcastle County Schools

Rockcastle Middle School Action Plan Snapshot

1. Population, Desired Results, and Indicators

Rockcastle Middle School aims to ensure that all students are healthy, prepared for their future paths, and supported by stable environments. The school emphasizes strong partnerships between school, family, and community, and prioritizes academic success, including readiness for kindergarten. Progress toward these goals will be monitored through indicators such as attendance, behavior, and academic performance

2. What is the story behind the curve?

Rockcastle Middle School excels in climate and culture with present SROs and staff who engage students beyond academics. They’ve also enhanced mental health support with new partnerships and dedicated space for providers. However, they face challenges common statewide, such as high chronic absenteeism (40.43% in 2022-2023) and teachers needing additional instructional guidance and resources despite their strong support for students.

3. Locally Set Indicators (based on Areas of Concern)

- #/% of students proficient in reading and/or math as reported by KSA/iReady increases.
- #/% teachers report an increase in job satisfaction
- #/% of chronically absent students decreases

Strategies for Active Family and Community Engagement

- **Parent Group:** We are developing a new parent group to assist with planning for parent events and activities and to assist in providing support for teachers. We have partnered with a community member who is also a parent who will work to build an active parent group.
- **Parent Palooza:** In partnership with community resources and our newly formed parent group our beginning of the school year open house will transform to a Parent Palooza, featuring resources from the community that families may need.
- **Family Friendly School Certification:** In an effort to build strong relationships between our school and our families we will work toward becoming a Family Friendly School through the Prichard Committee.
- **Rally Days:** With partnerships with the community we will enhance our Rally Days to provide our students incentives weekly and each semester for reaching attendance goals.
- **Attendance letters:** In order to provide parents resources and information on the importance of attendance we will continue to send home letters to inform them on what being chronic absent means and how it will affect their child's education.

Strategies for Integrated Student Supports

- **Rocket Motivational Mail:** We will begin to send handwritten postcards to students to offer personalized encouragement and support.
- **Encouragement/Appreciation Notes to Staff:** To acknowledge their hard work, administration and the parent group will start sending personalized notes of appreciation and encouragement to teachers throughout the school year.
- **Student Be at School Incentive:** With partnership from the community we will begin providing weekly recognition for students who meet attendance goals.
- **Super Takeover:** Each quarter, staff names will be drawn for a chance to have the Superintendent take over their duties for a day, giving the selected staff member a day off. This new initiative aims to boost staff morale and offer encouragement.
- **Birthday Calls to Staff:** The Superintendent will personally call staff members on their birthdays to offer a special birthday greeting to boost staff morale.

Strategies for Expanded and Enriched Learning Time and Opportunities

- **Mentorship Program:** With partnership from community members we will start a mentorship program. We aim to pair students with community members during lunch time. We want our students to feel supported and encouraged.

- **Kentucky Heritage Day:** To boost attendance and community involvement, we will enhance the Kentucky Heritage Day event. Students must maintain good grades and attendance to participate in art, project-based learning, and cultural activities related to Kentucky Heritage.

Strategies for Collaborative Leadership and Practices to Support High-Quality Teaching

- **Jostens Renaissance Training:** This new training is for staff and community and will focus on strategies to build a positive school culture, boost staff morale, and improve academic achievement and attendance.
- **Instructional Coach:** A full-time coach will support teachers with 3 years or less of experience to ensure effective teaching and student progress. The coach will focus on aligning teaching strategies with Kentucky state standards, using data for instructional decisions, and partnering with the community for resources.
- **Clarity for Learning Training:** Teachers will participate in the Department of Education's Clarity for Learning program this fall. To support this, stipends and books will be provided. Families and community members will also have the chance to join this training to better understand the strategy.
- **Community and Family Engagement:**
 - Families will be invited to join the Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership (CIPL) to strengthen partnerships between the school and families.
 - School administrators, community partners, and the Family Resource Center Coordinator will be encouraged to attend key KCSI trainings and conferences, including:
 - CIPL Facilitator Training (Sept 11-13, Lexington, KY)
 - Kentucky Community Schools Initiative Networking (Nov 12-13, Lexington, KY)
 - National Community Schools Conference (Date TBD)
 - 2025 Groundswell Conference (Date TBD)

**Be a part of the change by attending an upcoming Community School Team meeting.
Get connected below.**

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- Rockcastle County Middle School Community School State Coach: Andrea McKeehan;
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- School Webpage: <https://rcms.rockcastle.kyschools.us/o/rcms>
- School or District Social Media: <https://www.facebook.com/rockcastlecountyschools>
- Full School Action Plan: [2024-2025 Rockcastle- Middle Action Plan](#)