

Kentucky Work Ready Communities

Narrative 1: High School Graduation Rate: Present a plan to reach 98% by 2022.

The Fleming County High School (FCHS) graduation rate is 94.2% according to the KCEWS website using the Cohort method, reported 11-19-2013.

Fleming County has a focus on student success and innovation. We engage our students earlier and more completely than ever before. More students are graduating college and/ or career ready. Fleming County's College/ Career-Ready index for 2014 is 96.43. The trend is upward as the index was 71 in 2012 and 81 in 2013.

Student success begins long before graduation, so we continue to seek ways to work more closely with our community partners to prepare our county's youth for college and career. We want elementary students to nourish their enthusiasm for learning, and our faculty members are instrumental in helping prepare students at every level for college and/ or careers. New and enhanced collaborations with employers enable us to strengthen our academic programs. Fleming County Schools and the Work Ready Committee are deeply committed to community engagement. The broad array of interdisciplinary activities provides educational value to our students while fostering economic development and community vitality.

The following narrative outlines the programs and initiatives being utilized for drop-out prevention and to increase Fleming County's graduation rate.

K-12 Educational Attainment Incentives

The Family Resource and Youth Services Center coordinates an interagency community group that requires parents to attend three school functions, such as an open house, before the student can receive free community incentives. With a high rate of poverty, this is used to emphasize the value of education. Fleming County also celebrates academic, creativity, and personal achievements of our youth through recognizing students in the newspaper, at the Board of Education meetings, and throughout the school system. This encourages and rewards youth who are actively involved in educational activities. Recognition is given for such things as, A/B honor roll, 21ACT Society, special projects, and the display of leadership characteristics.

Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP)

Fleming County has a strong Student Technology Leadership Program (STLP), a project-based learning program that empowers students in all grade levels to use technology to learn and achieve. These projects allow students to express their creativity and build a base for many of the career pathway classes at the high school level. Elementary and Middle School students win State awards in building a computer and multi-media projects. Students provide Help Desks for the teachers in

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Fleming County. FCHS students also win positions on the State STLP Help Desk Committee. Technology is emphasized in all high school career pathways from digital art to addressing automotive engine problems. Students also have the opportunity to compete in local, regional and state competitions. This program gives students the motivation and purpose to stay in school to graduate. In addition, this program provides opportunities for students to see technology used in careers as they do community service projects such as establishing web sites for businesses, typing books for authors, and preparing multimedia projects for businesses.

Individual Learning Plans

All students develop Individual Learning Plans, beginning at the sixth grade level and continuing until they graduate, by taking a variety of interest inventories. Parents are invited to an Open House and meet with teachers and students to explore their child's plan. Students use the software, *Explorer* and *Career Cruising* to develop skills and knowledge for the workforce. At the tenth grade level students develop a *Plan* for their career. FCHS will partner with TENCO to determine high-wage, high-growth and high-demand occupations. FCHS students exhibited their knowledge of careers by hosting a **Career Pathways Recruitment Day** for eighth graders this spring. Hands-on activities in each pathway were included for the eighth graders. A variety of career pathways with certifications and community service was illustrated by students.

Fleming County Agricultural Program

With a strong support from the community, Panther Ag/FFA has access to a 180-acre Fleming County School Farm. Students have access to hands-on-learning in livestock production, safe livestock handling, crop production, fence building, and Ag construction. One such project has artificial insemination of hogs, raise the hogs, slaughter, and then have pork roast for school lunch. Students learn the value and process of the production of their food. Students receive many national awards and feel empowered by the program.

The welding teams have won several awards and are employed by local manufacturers and construction firms. After high school graduation, students still receive educational support from the University of Kentucky Network, the Cattlemen's Association with informational programs, and local businesses, such as Hinton Mills and Southern States. This program has encouraged many students to graduate from high school. Our Ag program, due to student interaction and combining interest in agriculture with a traditional curriculum, builds leaders and contributors to our community and to society as a whole.

Credit Recovery

Credit Recovery is offered during the day to students who have been unsuccessful in a class/classes for a variety of reasons that may include: difficulty of the subject, behavior, work needs, single parent,

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difficulty in a structured setting, and others. This program has been a great assistance for many of our students in meeting graduation requirements and personal goals. Students are provided an opportunity to make up non-mastered standards without repeating the entire course. This provides an incentive to the students, as well as ensuring that students have learned the information. The web-based class (PLATO and ALEKS online curriculum) is monitored by a Certified Teacher and Instructional Assistant which provides one-on-one guidance. Other teachers in specialized areas, such as Chemistry and Physics may be brought into the class for students who need their assistance. Parents are provided a weekly progress report.

Graduation Success Academy

This program is new to FCHS and is designed to help fourth year students who will not have sufficient credits to graduate to complete required courses/credits necessary to graduate through on-line classes and at their individualized pace. Students may earn an alternate diploma with the minimum 22 credits required for graduation, less than the number required for Fleming County Schools (30.5). It provides an incentive to graduate for those students who might have to return to school for another year in order to graduate.

Upward Bound

At risk students have the opportunity to participate in the summer academy of Upward Bound at Morehead State University. Upward Bound is an academic preparatory program for high school students. The purpose of the program is to help students prepare for college by generating the academic skills and motivation necessary for success. The UB program at MSU serves high school students in sixteen Eastern Kentucky counties. The program is composed of two distinct programs: Upward Bound Classic and Upward Bound Math and Science.

Migrant Education

The Migrant Education Program provides supplemental educational and support services to migratory children. The Migrant Education Program assists local schools with improving and coordinating the educational continuity for the children of migratory farm workers who have had their schooling interrupted. A Spanish-speaking teacher is available for this work that helps students learn English and find job opportunities. One such success story for a 2014 graduate includes a student who took the CNA program, became certified and was employed by Pioneer Trace Nursing Home. This student is on a career pathway to become a nurse.