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Jenkins Independent Damian Johnson

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Description of the District

Describe the district'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 district serves?

Jenkins Independent is nestled among the Appalachian Mountains of the Kentucky/ Virginia border, in the city of Jenkins, Kentucky in Letcher County. In 1912 the city of Jenkins was named for George C. Jenkins, the director of a local coal company and Baltimore banker. The town quickly grew due to the large workforce employed by Consolidation Coal Company and a line of the Lexington and Eastern Railroad that soon extended into Letcher County. Community members are very proud of their Appalachian culture and their personal roots tied to the coal industry and the City of Jenkins, including Jenkins Independent School. The coal industry has, in some way or form, impacted a large percentage of this area of Kentucky, but was the pillar and primary source of income for most citizens and households in Jenkins. Most neighborhoods in the city still have the old coal camp row houses. As the coal industry folded and people moved away, the town has lost many businesses and opportunities for growth. Economically and socially, the area is suffering from limited employment opportunities and high drug usage. The school system is the largest employer in the city and is the hub of most activity. The system has faced its own struggles in that it has had one of the highest turnover rates for staff and administrators in the state. Most recently, the school and community was devastated by catastrophic flooding. Despite the challenges, the community is extremely supportive of the IIS and is proud of the accomplishments of the students and staff. JIS leadership continually seeks to partner with local agencies, city leadership, county officials, and community- and state-based agencies to support the needs of the school and community.

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.

The mission of Jenkins Independent School is to encourage our students to do their best and engage them in the educational process so they can excel to their full potential. Our motto is ENCOURAGE-ENGAGE-EXCEL. Additionally, our goal is to create competitive, committed citizens who will help to rebuild the city and community into a thriving, productive place where families can flourish. The district embodies its vision and mission statements in several ways: maintaining a strong partnership with local colleges and universities to provide dual credit classes; collaboration with Wise Co (VA) Career and Technical School to provide vocational and career training for students to attain specialized certifications; classroom instruction aligned to KCAS/Quality Core Standards and is rigorous and holds students accountable; student data/progress monitoring and interventions/



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enrichments as needed; retention and recruitment of strong instructional staff; high-quality teacher professional trainings, and a culture of high expectations from the top down. Student needs drive the services provided and community and parent involvement ensure that all stakeholders have a voice in making JIS the best place to be.

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.

Jenkins Independent has had one of the highest staff turnover rates in the state for many years. A revolving door of administrators and teachers left the district in limbo in terms of setting and reaching goals. It also created a culture where not everyone was appreciated, valued, or where staff were encouraged to grow and improve. However, a new superintendent and new school principals are committed to stability and putting student needs first. Coupled with those challenges, generational poverty, and the learning loss brought about by the pandemic, our students are struggling. Our goal is to not only close the gap for our students, but to also accelerate learning. We face many challenges in getting students to actively reengage in the learning, attend regularly, and buy in to a growth mindset.

Additional Information

Districts Supporting CSI/TSI (including ATSI) Schools Only: Describe the procedures for monitoring and providing support for (a) CSI/TSI school(s) so as to ensure the successful implementation of the school improvement plan.

The CSIP and CDIP were developed from the working committees on each school campus and school/district leadership team. All staff members have the opportunity to contribute and participate in the evaluation and planning of the school academic program. As part of our plan to address achievement gaps and learning loss, tutors have been hired to help with small group instruction at the elementary school. Evidence-based resources and programs have been purchased to maximize learning opportunities and strengthen the overall school academic program. Diagnostic assessments are used to help identify the needs of groups and individual students. KDE Education Recovery staff have helped us As ongoing data is analyzed, changes to small groups will be ongoing, Staff will be engaging in the Plan conduct a thorough needs assessment and we are awaiting the results of our Diagnostic Review.

Additional Information

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



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The district is the recipient of a Partners for Rural Impact Gear Up grant. The high school campus is also partnering with OneGoal to help address our postsecondary readiness rate.



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Attachment Summary

Attachment Name Description Associated Item(s)	Attachment Name	Description Associated Item(s)	Description	(s)
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