Executive Summary

East Newton Elementary School
Newton County School System

Dr. Kim S. Coady, Principal
2286 Dixie Rd
Covington, GA 30014-5444
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Description of the School</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>School's Purpose</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Information</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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?

East Newton Elementary School is a prekindergarten through fifth grade school. It is a part of the Newton County School District located between Rockdale and Walton County and is about 40 miles southeast of Atlanta. ENES is the oldest of 14 elementary schools in the district. It was established in 1954 as a segregated school under the leadership of Mr. R.L. Clements. Today it seeks to meet the educational needs of a diverse population.

Of 550 students, 293 are male and 257 are female. The school has four classrooms in all grade levels aside from Pre-K which consists of two classrooms. The average student/teacher ratio is 18:1. 52% of the student population participates in the free/reduced lunch program. The current ethnic makeup of East Newton Elementary School is 1.09% Asian, 29% African-American, 2.9% Hispanic, 1.81% multiracial and 64% Caucasian. Ten percent of our student population is eligible for Quest, our gifted program, sixteen percent receive special education services, fifteen percent are served through the EIP (Early Intervention Program), and ten percent are served through the Title I Targeted Assistance Program. There are ten students with 504 plans, and twenty-one students receive ESOL services.

The highly qualified faculty at ENES includes 45 certified teachers. East Newton has twenty-six classroom teachers, six special education teachers, three support teachers, a physical education teacher, a music teacher, a speech teacher, a part-time ESOL teacher, a counselor, and an art teacher, as well as a media specialist, a technology support technician, a principal, and an assistant principal. Three-fourths of the school faculty has earned degrees at or above the Master's level in the field of education. Faculty turnover is low and many of the faculty members have worked at East Newton Elementary for over ten years. Both the principal and assistant principal transferred from the same school within the district.

East Newton also employs eleven paraprofessionals to assist with classroom duties and instruction. Each kindergarten and prekindergarten class is assigned a full-time paraprofessional. Additional paraprofessionals rotate among grade levels to provide students with targeted academic assistance.

Our staff further includes a records clerk, a bookkeeper, a full-time nurse, a cafeteria manager with six workers, and three full-time custodians and a part-time custodian. The ethnicity of our faculty and staff is 90% Caucasian and 10% African-American.

East Newton Elementary excels in meeting students' needs and offers many programs and opportunities for students. Every child in grades kindergarten through fifth grade attends art, music, and physical education classes taught by specialists in their respective fields. Students attend an art class weekly, a music class weekly, and physical education classes bi-weekly. Students also enjoy weekly lessons in the media center.

The integration of technology is a priority at East Newton. Computers are available in every classroom. There is a multi-point computer unit set up in every classroom consisting of 4 computers in addition to the teacher's computer. ENES has two computer labs, two laptop carts, interactive whiteboards, document cameras, iPads, iPods, and wireless access. "My Big Campus" is used as a way to safely communicate on the Internet with teachers, students, and parents.

Parents and community members volunteer at East Newton on a daily basis to organize special events, such as a recent "Trip to Australia" Day, work with individual students, and to conduct fundraisers. Volunteers also participate in Career Day and Transportation Day to broaden...
students’ career readiness.

Students at East Newton Elementary take on leadership roles through programs such as East Newton News team, Safety Patrol, the Recycling Team, 4-H, and Junior Beta Club. Fifth graders also attend the Champs program, which provides guidance and the skills, ability and knowledge to be safe, healthy, and happy in preparation for a successful life. Many students participate in local and regional competitions such as science fairs, writing and oratorical contests, and spelling bees.

While East Newton continues to provide a high-quality education to students in Newton County, there are current and upcoming challenges to be faced, including the following:

- An increase in the percentage of economically disadvantaged students since the opening and rezoning of a nearby elementary school that occurred in 2011. Prior to 2011, the percentage of students receiving free and reduced lunch was approximately 40%. Currently, the percentage of students receiving free and reduced lunch at East Newton Elementary is approximately 52%.

- Decreased federal, state and local funding due to the current economic environment.

- Increased class size due to a decrease in funding which has limited the hiring of additional classroom teachers and paraprofessionals.
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.

The mission of Newton County School System is to provide educational excellence for all learners. Our school system's non-negotiable goals are to increase student achievement, teach more effectively, integrate technology, and use highly effective professional learning communities. East Newton Elementary supports the district's mission by implementing a variety of research-based instructional strategies and technology integration in every classroom. Strong professional learning communities occur throughout the building to ensure that all students are given the opportunities and resources that they need to be successful in their academic endeavors.

At East Newton Elementary, we envision a learning community where students are challenged to produce, perform, create, think critically, and communicate their knowledge in order to surpass the standards of a competitive, globally connected audience. ENES fulfills our vision by recognizing the need to develop students academically, socially, emotionally, physically, and developmentally. We have a number of academic programs which provide the needed intervention or enrichment opportunities for students to meet/exceed the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards including Early Morning Academy, Early Intervention Program, Title I Targeted Assistance Program, Quest, and ESOL services. Teachers and students participate in a mandatory Accelerated Reader program to promote motivation for reading success on all levels.

Students at East Newton Elementary take on leadership roles through programs such as East Newton News team, Safety Patrol, and the Recycling Team, 4-H, and Junior Beta Club. Fifth graders also attend the Champs program, which provides guidance and the skills, ability and knowledge to be safe, healthy, and happy in preparation for a successful life.

We partner with parents and community members to meet the needs of our wide range of learners by providing activities such as PTO and parent involvement classes. In order to meet the needs of our learners socially, we provide group and individual counseling services as well as programs such as "Backpack Buddies" to provide students in poverty with enough food to make it through long weekend breaks. We also ensure that every learner at East Newton has an adult advocate through our "Bear Cub" and "BEARS" initiatives.
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.

East Newton Elementary's Notable Achievements and Accomplishments

- Met Adequate Yearly Progress for four consecutive years
- 2012 Newton County Teacher of the Year - Julie Thompson

One of the goals of the East Newton Elementary School Improvement Plan is to improve student achievement as evidenced by data from local, state, and national assessments. All students are engaged in a rigorous curriculum that is differentiated to allow all learners to meet and exceed the standards. The most recent CRCT test scores show the following improvements in 3rd, 4th and 5th grades from the 2009-10 school year to the 2012-13 school year.

- Reading: 3rd grade improved from 92% meeting or exceeding standards in 2010 to 96% in 2013
- Reading: 4th grade improved from 85% meeting or exceeding standards in 2010 to 99% in 2013
- Reading: 5th grade improved from 91% meeting or exceeding standards in 2010 to 100% in 2013

- English/Language Arts: 3rd grade improved from 88% meeting or exceeding standards in 2010 to 90% in 2013
- English/Language Arts: 4th grade improved from 87% meeting or exceeding standards in 2010 to 95% in 2013
- English/Language Arts: 5th grade improved from 95% meeting or exceeding standards in 2010 to 99% in 2013

- Math: 4th grade improved from 85% meeting or exceeding standards in 2010 to 92% in 2013
- Math: 5th grade improved from 87% meeting or exceeding standards in 2010 to 96% in 2013

- Science: 4th grade improved from 83% meeting or exceeding standards in 2010 to 91% in 2013
- Science: 5th grade improved from 83% meeting or exceeding standards in 2010 to 94% in 2013

- Social Studies: 4th grade improved from 78% meeting or exceeding standards in 2010 to 83% in 2013
- Social Studies: 5th grade improved from 89% meeting or exceeding standards in 2010 to 93% in 2013

Additionally, the 5th grade Georgia Writing Test scores improved from 74% meeting expectations and 6% exceeding expectations in 2010 to 73% meeting expectations with 15% exceeding expectations in 2013.

While celebrating the successes that ENES has achieved during the past three years in student learning, the faculty is working to increase performance on the statewide test with special attention given to the areas where improvement is necessary.

- 3rd grade Math CRCT scores dropped from 85% meeting or exceeding standards in 2010 to 81% in 2013
- 3rd grade Science CRCT scores dropped from 90% meeting or exceeding standards in 2010 to 82% in 2013
- 3rd grade Social Studies CRCT scores dropped from 90% meeting or exceeding standards in 2010 to 86% in 2013

Programs were implemented or promoted to increase student achievement, such as Early Morning Academy, Study Island, Accelerated
Reader, and an afterschool program.

Reflecting on factors that influence achievement and analyzing various test data combined with research-driven instructional techniques, ENES will continue to foster high expectations for all students.
Additional Information

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

The faculty, staff, parents, and students exhibit "Paw Pride" for the learning community that has been established at East Newton Elementary. We have a school climate that promotes positive relationships between all stakeholders. One of the ways we care about our school and community is demonstrated through our support programs. Our school works together to collect food for local Newton County food pantries. The Christmas Wish List program provides several families with assistance during the holiday season. We also collect donations for tornado and hurricane victims as the need arises. In addition, we partner with local churches to provide food for several students over the weekend in a program called Backpack Buddies. Our Physical Education teacher, Mr. Blake Alexander, has implemented a program called BEARS which uses positive role models to teach leadership skills to male students. Each student at East Newton Elementary has an adult advocate through our Bear Cub Mentoring initiative. East Newton PTO and the PRIDE volunteer program provide parent and community members with opportunities to volunteer their time and skills helping students each week.

Recently, Georgia has experienced the shift in curriculum from Georgia Performance Standards to the Common Core Georgia Performance Standards. Our teachers have worked to grow professionally by unpacking standards and aligning the elements across the grade levels. They also participate in various trainings to support student learning such as Marzano's nine instructional strategies, building background knowledge, the use of interactive notebooks, and implementing the Learning Focused Schools instructional model. East Newton teachers also receive frequent professional development sessions such as My Big Campus, AR/STAR, Infinite Campus, Study Island, and Thinkgate, in order to ensure that all teachers are able to use technology with proficiency in their classrooms. During the 2012-2013 school year, the entire faculty began a book study, Raising Black Students' Achievement Through Culturally Responsive Teaching by Johnnie McKinley, and will complete it during the 2013-2014 school year. Several grade levels across the school participated in a phonics training with Dr. Sallie Mills, and the resources are used in our Early Morning Academy program. We have also received training in the area of mathematics from Mary Mendenhall and training addressing implementing 6+1 writing traits with Robin Dykes, both of whom were from our local Griffin RESA. These professional development opportunities help teachers as they are planning lessons and developing strategies to address the needs of all students during weekly Professional Learning Community meetings.

The staff at East Newton believes that all stakeholders are essential to the success of our school and are continually looking for ways to develop and nurture our relationships with each and every very important member of our learning community.