Executive Summary

Eastside High School
Newton County School System

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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?

Eastside High School (EHS) is a public high school located in Covington, Georgia and is home to over 1300 students in grades 9-12. There are three public high schools in Newton County; Newton High School, Alcovy High School, and Eastside High School. EHS opened in August of 1994. The Class of 1998 was the first graduating class. The school is comprised of 80 certified faculty members, 54 of whom have advanced degrees ranging from Masters Degrees to Doctorates. The school currently has a principal, three assistant principals (one of whom serves as the athletic director), three guidance counselors, a graduation coach, a media specialist, an LP nurse, an athletic trainer, plus 44 support staff members.

Of the student population, 59% are Caucasian, 33% African American, 2% Asian, 4% Hispanic, and 2% multiracial. Approximately 43% of the student body is economically disadvantaged as denoted by free and reduced lunch numbers. Identified special education student make up 12% of the school's population.

The student demographic information mirrors the makeup of the community. Over the past three years, population growth has slowed, and Newton County continues to hover around 100,000 residents. According to the 2012 United States Census Bureau, 19.4% of Newton County residents over the age of 25 have obtained at least a Bachelor's Degree. Newton County currently has an unemployment rate of 9.3% which is slightly higher than the Georgia average of 9.1% and significantly higher than the National average of 7.9%. Eastside High School is located in an area that continues to change. After experiencing a rise in the population increase during 2005-2010, many of those who moved to the community during that period have now left. The student population of EHS has actually decreased slightly from what it was a few years ago. New industry is coming to our county now, the largest of which will be the Baxter Medical facility which is scheduled to open in 2018. It will create 1500 new jobs for our community, many of which will be new move-ins to our county. The expected school population increase in the next few years will present a challenge for our system.

Eastside operates on a traditional 7 period schedule that supports a diverse and challenging academic curriculum. Most students take six credit-bearing classes with an additional period, named Acadex, devoted to enrichment, credit recovery, special tutoring, mentoring, guest speakers, and other services. At the present time Eastside offers 12 AP classes with plans to add at least two more (Human Geography and French) for the 2014-2015 school year. In 2013, 169 students took 284 AP exams with 44.7% earning a score of 3 or higher. EHS offers foreign language courses in Latin, Greek, French, and Spanish. Our Latin students have won highest State recognition for the past several years. EHS is also home to an award-winning fine arts department made up of drama, show choir, chorus, visual arts, and band.

A major challenge over the past few years has been the transition from a 4 x 4 block schedule to a traditional seven period schedule. Beginning in the 2011-2012 school year, Eastside High School began operating on a seven period a day schedule after offering a 4 x 4 block since the school's opening. The economic situation of our county played a major role in the decision to return each high school to the more traditional schedule as fewer teachers were needed to implement this. It has been challenging for administrators, teachers, and student, but now we are adjusting favorable to the change.

Eastside High School has good parental support through several different groups. Each major sport as well as the band, chorus and drama has their own booster club that works to support and raise money for that particular area. The Eagle Moms organization, made up of mothers of football players does a tremendous job in supporting, encouraging, and raising funds for our whole school.
Excellence for all students through strong relationships and instructional strategies delivered by effective teachers is not just our mission statement on a piece of paper but the creed by which we strive to live at EHS. Our strength is in our people - our students, staff, and parents. There is a lot of pride in our school. We start each morning with an announcement from the principal over the intercom stating, "It's a Great Day to be an Eagle". The vast majority under our roof truly take that to heart. Our students challenge themselves academically and are very involved in the overall dynamics of all a high school has to offer. We have already attained much success in the past and expect much more in the future. It is our desire to meet students where they are and offer them every opportunity to make it possible for them to go where they aspire to go.
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.

Eastside High School's Vision and Mission statements are directly aligned with the Newton County School System’s Vision and Mission statements. The process for developing the Eastside Vision and Mission statements included input, feedback, and approval from all stakeholders.

Newton County Vision Statement: The Newton County School System envisions students, who through a rigorous and relevant education will be able to think critically in order to produce, perform, create, and communicate their knowledge competitively to a hyper-connected, global audience.

Newton County Mission Statement: Provide educational excellence to all students through more effective teaching practices and increased student achievement.

Eastside High School Vision Statement: Eastside High School is a student-centered community of learners dedicated to equipping students with the skills to be successful after high school by providing a rigorous and relevant education through effective teaching, use of research based instructional strategies, and building strong, positive relationships.

Eastside Mission Statement:
Excellence for All Students
Through Strong relationships and Instructional strategies
Delivered by Effective teachers

Eastside High School believes in the powerful opportunities that emerge in classrooms when teachers and students are focused upon successful outcomes. Daily, the focus begins with an emphasis to redeem each moment so that students learn, grow, develop, and reach their fullest potential. Our teachers fully devote themselves to providing instruction that utilizes research-based instructional strategies, builds on background knowledge, and infuses technology to enhance student learning. At EHS, an unimportant person and an unimportant day does not exist. We believe in providing outstanding academic instruction partnered with a variety of extracurricular activities and career guidance.

At Eastside High School, we believe in strong relationships and instructional strategies. We understand the importance of preparing our students to be competitive upon graduation as college, scholarship, and career opportunities are diminishing and highly contested. Our teachers have engaged in numerous job-embedded professional learning opportunities to enhance the instruction provided to our students. Our class schedule offers opportunities during the school day to provide necessary remediation, enrichment, and mentoring opportunities for students.
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.

Eastside is a school that is constantly looking for ways to improve and celebrate the success of its students and teachers, both collectively and individually. Typically these successes are mentioned to the students and the staff so that all can celebrate these achievements. The administration is always looking for ways to show teachers that they want to help Eastside by supplying what is needed for classroom instruction, athletics, and for other extracurricular activities. Sometimes all that is needed is encouragement to take a step forward and "Be the Best", but our administration, staff, and teachers are there to give that to the students and to each other.

One way that Eastside High School has improved and continues to improve is through the use of technology within classes throughout the day. Five years ago, students would only experience technology used by teachers on a sporadic basis. Today, every classroom with students at least two class periods a day has an active board or projector to use for student learning. Students are encouraged to use their technology devices in class when appropriate. Teachers are using a variety of online programs and applications to allow students and parents to keep up with test dates, school work, and have access to classroom notes. The school has also improved and updated computer labs throughout the building. This includes adding more computer labs and adding laptop carts so that more teachers can use these in their instruction.

Many teachers have applied for grants for various uses throughout the school throughout the past five years. The number of teachers applying for grants and receiving grants has increased as we have strived to improve the quality of instruction and technology throughout our classrooms. We have received a General Mills Grant, a State Farm Semester of Service Grant, a Target Field Trip Grant, a H.B. Fuller Grant, a Reimagine Newton Grant, and eight Snapping Shoals Grants. These teachers have applied for these grants to provide students will access to field trips to dairy farms to enhance the curriculum. Some grants have been used to purchase supplies for enhanced note taking in Math classes and for projects that will enhance and provide practical application in agriculture courses and in Physical Science. Kindle e-readers have been purchased to promote differentiation in reading instruction in English courses. Math and Social Studies teachers have purchased iPod minis, iPads, and iPad touches to enhance review and to differentiate instruction in math courses and to allow students to participate in polling and other technology driven activities in Government and U.S. History courses. Our Physical Education department participated with the county-wide initiative to receive a PEP Grant to receive exercise equipment for student use.

Academically we have offered numerous AP courses throughout the last five years. We currently offer AP Chemistry, AP Calculus, AP Statistics, AP Language and Composition, AP Literature, AP Government, AP U.S. History, AP European History, AP World History, AP Latin, AP Music Theory and two AP Art courses. These art courses focus on Drawing and 2-Dimensions. We have also offered AP Biology within this five year window.

Eastside's teachers are committed to developing their knowledge about their craft and helping others develop their craft by attending and presenting at various conferences and workshops in the past five years. Many teachers have completed and participated in gifted certification programs and AP programs for a variety of subject areas. One science teacher attended the Oxford Institute for Environmental Education through Emory University during the summer of 2013. Many teachers attended the 2013-2014 Newton County Teach for Tomorrow Technology Conference, and one of our English teachers presented “The Flipped Classroom” at this same conference. We also had teachers present at an AP workshop on using the flipped classroom model in AP US History. One of our math teachers also presented information about his grading policies for AP Calculus and how they lead to more success for his students.

Eastside teachers have been recognized individually as well. The 2012-2013 Eastside Teacher of the Year was named the 2013-2014 Newton County Teacher of the Year. Also, one of our Biology teachers was selected reviewing Biology EOCT data for the Georgian Department of Education during the summers of 2012 and 2013.
Our students have had many accomplishments throughout these five years in testing and other academic competitions. For example, one Eastside student had a perfect score on the 2009-2010 administration of the Georgia High School Writing Test (GHSWT). During the 2012-2013 administration, two students achieved perfect scores. From the 2009-2010 to 2012-2013 school years, we have had fifteen students make a 5, which is the highest score possible, on the AP English Language and Composition test. We also had four students, one from each grade, win the NCSS Young Georgia Author Competition during the 2012-2013 school year.

Our Latin program has had more than 20 students participated in 3 certamen tournaments and won trophies for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd places for the last four school years. In 2011-2012, this program was named the Advanced Level State Champions. This program has also won the Pentathlon Exam at the Georgia Junior Classical League Fall Forum for the past four years. GJCL State Convention has also provided great success in allowing students to win more than 400 awards over four years and having won the most awards of all the high schools attending in 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, 2012-2013. Eastside was named the Convention champion of all schools in 2009-2010 and 2011-2012. Other awards have been own by having over 30 students attending the GJCL Fall Forum for the past four years. On the National Latin Exam, over 210 awards have been won. At least half of these medals have been gold.

Individual students have won the 2009-2010 CAMWS Transition Exam cash prize, the 2011-2012 CAMWS Translation Exam cash prize, and multiple CAMWS book prizes over the last four years. This program produced the 2010-2011 Georgia Classical Association Student of the year. Two students were named a finalist for the Georgia Classical Association Student of the year award during these four years. One student was chosen to participate in the Governor's Honors Program for Latin in 2009-2010 and one student was chosen in 2010-2011.

In other academic areas, our Social Studies Department decided to begin a Mock Trial Team during the 2009-2010 school year. Eastside's Mock Trial Team was named the 2012 and 2013 county champion. In 2012, the team was the Northern Region Wildcard team and advanced to the state round of competition.

Our Science Department started a Rocket Team during the 2008-2009 school year. This team has competed in at least one launch per year in order to receive a score to submit for qualifying for the national competition. During the 2010-2011 school year, the Rocket Team qualified for Nationals and competed in Virginia in May that year.

In the area of CTAE, many of our students have won various awards. These awards are a tribute to the work of our students and the teachers that work with them to achieve these high goals. Our CTI program has consistently had winners in the High Tech Computer Competition over the last few years. Each student designated as a winner receives a laptop as part of winning the competition. We have had five winners during the 2010-2011 school year, eight winners during the 2011-2012 school year, and eight winners during the 2012-2103 school year.

Our students have also participated in FBLA competitions to win awards and move forward in competition. We have had students place 1st in the regional competition for digital video production during the 2011-2012 and 2012-2013 school years and for digital design and promotion during the 2012-2013 school year. These students competed at the state level and received 1st place in the digital video production competition and 2nd in the digital design and promotion competition. The digital video production team competed in the nation competition during the 2012-2012 school year and won 1st place.

Eastside's Fine Arts program boasts many successes and awards. The drama department always produces several shows throughout the school year. Some are meant for children to attend and serve our local elementary schools. Others focus on improvisation and show choir performances. The Drama department has received two excellents in One Act performances for 2012-2013 and 2013-2014. Two students were named All Star Cast members at One Act Competition for years. For the 2013-2014 performance of High School Musical, there are four nominees for the Shuler Hensley Awards for leading actress, leading actor, supporting actress, and supporting actor. Two students were chosen as 2013-2014 Shuler STAR Council interns, and one student is serving as a 2013-2014 State Thespian Officer.

The visual art program has had increased achievements on the AP Studio Art portfolio exam. Students have had increase opportunities to showcase their work in the school and in the community over the past five years. Students have participated in a Fall Art Show, a Spring Art Show, and an AP Art School since 2012. Students have also participated in BOE art displays, the True Colours County-Wide Art Show, and there is a new photography exhibit that will be displayed at EHS this year. Students also submit artwork for other art competitions and scholarships as part of acceptance to programs at colleges and universities.
The Eastside Marching Band has had Superior and Excellent Ratings at all contests and festivals for the last 18 years. They have had straight Superior Ratings at the GMEA Large Group Performance Evaluation for 2012 and 2013. The Pride of Eastside Marching Band was invited to perform at the 54th Annual Daytona 500 in February of 2012. Our band was also invited to perform at the Governor's Mansion during the 2012 Christmas Open House by Georgia's First Lady, Mrs. Deal. Many students have been chosen to participate in District Honor Band and All-State Band over the last three years, and this number as increased each year. Students have been awarded music scholarships to attend colleges and universities throughout the South.

The chorus program has had a multitude of awards through chorus, show choir and literary meets. Students have attended Georgia College & State University Choral Day. We have had students attend the District IV Honor Chorus at Stephenson High School for the 2008-2010 school years. We have had students attend the District IV Honor Chorus at Avondale Estates Baptist Church in the 2011-2013 school years. Students attended the Georgia State University's High School Honor Choir last year. Our Chorus, Show Choir, Women's Ensemble, and Concert Choir have all participated in festivals and have consistently won good, excellent, and superior ratings for performance and sight-reading. Several students have also been recognized with superior and excellent ratings at Solo and Ensemble Festivals.

At Literary Meet, we have had students place in Girls Trio for four years with two 1st place finishes. The 2011-2012 trio placed second at the AAA state competition. We have had a student place in Girls' Soloist four year with two 1st place finishes. The soloist for 2010-2011 placed 3rd at state and the 2011-2012 won the AAA state competition. Eastside has had a Boy's Soloist place 3 times in four years. Our Boy's Quartet won 1st place four years in a row from 2008-2012 and placed 3 of those years at the AAA state competition. For 2012-2013, Eastside competed in the Region 8-AAAA Literary Meet and Girls Trio, Girl's Soloist, Boy's Soloist, and Boy's Quartet all placed. Several students have made All State Chorus and have attended over the past 5 years. Students have also made All State Sight-Reading Chorus for the last two years. Due to the success of this chorus program, one student attended the Governor's Honors Program in Vocal Music and other students have received music scholarships to attend various colleges and universities in the South to major in vocal music education, creative music technologies, and vocal performance.
Additional Information

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

At EHS, we feel wholly responsible to provide daily opportunities for students to learn, grow, develop, and reach their fullest potential. We realize that a positive, successful learning environment for students requires a collective effort by students, teachers, staff, parents, and all stakeholders. For that reason, we cultivate a belief in continual growth through continuous communication and collaboration among all stakeholders. Our goal is Excellence for All Students Through Strong relationships and Instructional strategies Delivered by Effective teachers.