



2020-21 Phase Three: Executive Summary for  
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2020-21 Phase Three: Executive Summary for Schools

**Black Mountain Elementary School**

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United States of America

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## 2020-21 Phase Three: Executive Summary for Schools

. 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?

Black Mountain Elementary is nestled in the Appalachian Mountains in Harlan County. The school has 317 students in grades prekindergarten through eighth grade and has a 94% population of students who qualify for free and reduce lunch. The school has fifteen and a half regular classroom teachers, seven special education teachers, one Reading to Achieve teacher, one Gear-up Academic Specialist, two speech teachers, one AmeriCorps teacher, one librarian, two Save the Children Coordinators, and one Assistant Principal. We also have one itinerant band teacher, a hearing impaired teacher, a vision impaired teacher, and an occupational therapist. BME has a 14:1 teacher to student ratio. The school's ethnicity make up is 96% White, 2% African American, 1% two or more races, and 1% Hispanic/Latino. We have a high percentage of non-traditional households. The economy is very volatile in our area. The coal mining industry is our primary economy and with recent layoffs, students are moving out of our area so parents can seek jobs. We have students that move for a few months and then move back. We also have a number of students that change schools regularly within the county because they are living with relatives. • Black Mountain has 15 of GT Students in grades 4-8 formally identified as gifted and talented in one of the five categories and 12 of Students identified in grades K-3 in the Primary Talented Pool • Black Mountain has zero teachers certified in Gifted Education • Black Mountain offers no pull out program for gifted and talented students

. 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.

Vision: All students will be challenged to their full potential and be prepared for college or a career to contribute to society throughout their lives. Mission: To provide rigorous, standards based, and quality instruction in order to educate, prepare, and motivate our students to learn and be successful. Beliefs: Children do not learn at the same rate. Classroom instruction is to be protected at all cost. High-quality instruction helps students reach their annual goals. Partnerships among schools, families, and communities are key. Adults model good character and set examples for all students.

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. 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.

The district was awarded a Gear-up grant, ARI to allow for new technology, high attendance day winner for our district and region, and the implementation of Non-Traditional Instruction days (NTI) which will cease the disruption to instruction during the bad weather months. We will focus on increasing students performing on a proficient level, decreasing the number of students scoring at the novice level on the KPREP. We will work to move our students scoring apprentice to proficient/distinguished. We want to focus on notable gaps and increase the number of students who score proficient in those gaps. We want to increase the number of students who meet benchmarks on the KPREP assessment in reading and math to qualify those students as College and Career Ready. Save the Children Coordinators are also working closely with students and staff at Black Mountain Elementary to provide additional help and opportunities for reading. Black Mountain Elementary was also one of only two schools in the Harlan County Public School district to be recognized as a "Bright Spot" school for improved performances in reading and math. Bright Spot awards provide recognition for schools in which students performed better than expected on measures of educational achievement. • Notable Achievements o Harlan County Schools hires a School Level District Gifted and Talented Liaison at each school to serve as a bridge in communication between the school and district GT Coordinator o The School Level GT Liaison works with regular teachers in the building to help identify, plan the GSSP and monitor the progress of Gifted and Talented students. o The School Level GT Liaison regularly attends professional learning related to the needs of gifted and talented students and shares that information with teaching staff o The School Level GT Liaison participates in the district wide Identification and Placement Committee to engage in collegial conversation about gifted education with other GT Liaisons across the district • Areas of Improvement o Black Mountain will utilize appropriate measures to increase the number of students identified in gifted education o Professional Development for regular education teachers relating to the identification and service of Gifted and Talented students will increase.

. **CSI/TSI Schools (including ATSI) Only:** Describe the procedures used to create the school's improvement plan and briefly state the specific efforts to address the causes of low student performance and resource inequities.

Not Applicable

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

The faculty and staff at BME aim to make our student's safety and education our top priority. We strive to provide the best learning environment possible for all of our students, and we are constantly working to build and maintain a school where students feel safe, loved and welcome. We want our students to learn, both in and out of the classroom, and we look for learning opportunities in all that we do. Our goal is to prepare our students not only for the next educational step, but also for a successful life.

# Attachment Summary

Attachment Name	Description	Associated Item(s)
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