



2025-2026 Phase One: Executive Summary for  
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2025-2026 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools

**Black Mountain Elementary School**

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United States of America

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## 2025-2026 Phase One: Executive Summary for Schools

### 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?

Black Mountain Elementary is nestled in the Appalachian Mountains in Harlan County. The school has 258 students in grades prekindergarten through eighth grade and has a 88.4% population of students who qualify as economically disadvantaged. The school has twenty three (23) teachers, one speech teacher, one librarian, two Save the Children Coordinators, one part-time Gear-Up Coordinator, one full-time in-school counselor, and one full-time counselor contracted via Comp Care in Harlan County. Black Mountain offers a Gifted and Talented Program to acknowledge and challenge our gifted population of students. We also have one itinerant band teacher, a hearing impaired teacher, a vision impaired teacher, and an occupational therapist. The school's ethnic makeup is 93.4% White, 2.3% African American, 2.7% two or more races, and 1.6% other. 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.

### School Stakeholders

Identify and describe the school's stakeholder groups. How does the school ensure stakeholder involvement and engagement in the improvement planning process?

The stakeholder groups at Black Mountain Elementary include our student and teacher population, administrative and support staff, parents, school alumni, local businesses and government officials, and our health and social service providers. Black Mountain Elementary strives to communicate through an open-door policy and allow all stakeholders to be a part of the learning and improvement process throughout our school. Parents and family members are invited and encouraged to attend regular student teacher/parent teacher conferences so that educators and families can work together to ensure plans for student success. Black Mountain Elementary has an active decision-making site base council with two full-time parent representatives. These two parent representatives work closely with three teacher representatives and our administrative team, to make important decisions for our school, such as budgeting and hiring options. The site-base decision making at council meet at minimum monthly to discuss important issues and implement any changes or action necessary for Black Mountain Elementary. Partners within the school collaborate to offer family reading night opportunities for families to participate in the educational process. Families and parents, as well as students, have access to infinite campus, allowing those stakeholders to be up-to-date on

student grades and attendance, and receive updated information as it becomes available by teachers, our school, counselor, or administration.

### School's Purpose

Provide the school's purpose statement and supplementary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs, including the year in which they were last reviewed or revised. Describe how the school embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students and how stakeholders are involved in its development.

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.

### Notable Achievements

Describe the school's notable achievements in the last three years.

The district was awarded a Gear-up grant, and we currently have one part-time Gear-Up employee. Our school district will continue with 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 student performance on a proficient level, decreasing the number of students scoring at the novice level on the KSA test. 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 KSA 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.

### Notable Achievements:

-Harlan County Schools hired 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. 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. 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. 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.

-Black Mountain Elementary has numerous examples of additional support outside of the classroom. Partners for Rural Impact, Save the Children and Gear-Up coordinators are all examples of support systems working closely with school staff and administration to meet student needs and help bridge achievement gaps.

-Elementary teachers/classrooms have implemented WYN (What You Need) time with students, allowing specific needs to be targeted with students through planning intervention with multi-tier support. K-3 teachers are working weekly with the Amplify curriculum online program. Teachers throughout Black Mountain Elementary are also implementing UFLI Intervention, as well as the IXL program to progress monitor and provide additional practice and support for students across all grade levels and subjects. The district's Deeper Learning Program offers support for new teachers, and all Sped teachers are participating in regular PLCs.

#### Areas of Improvement:

-Black Mountain will utilize appropriate measures to increase the number of students identified in gifted education

-Professional Development for regular education teachers relating to the identification and service of Gifted and Talented students will increase.

-Black Mountain will identify students who performed Novice on the KSA test and target those students to improve scores.

#### Areas of Improvement

Describe areas for improvement that the school is striving to achieve in the next three years.

#### Areas of Improvement:

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-Black Mountain will identify students who performed Novice on the KSA test and target those students to improve scores.

#### Additional Information

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

N/A

# Attachment Summary

Attachment Name	Description	Associated Item(s)
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