



Executive Summary

National High School

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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?

National High School is a private, comprehensive institution that provides teacher-led, web-based instruction to its student population by integrating synchronous and asynchronous learning methods.

In 2012, National High School's administrative campus relocated to Johns Creek, a suburban community located 30 miles northeast of Atlanta. The administrative campus includes a lake that is home to beautiful ducks, fishing, a two-mile walking trail, immaculate landscaping with green lawns, a forest of shade generating trees and seasonal flowers. The administrative campus was previously located in Atlanta.

With highly-qualified instructors and an ever-evolving technology platform, NHS provides a full range of educational options for the students. From credit recovery, to diploma seeking, NHS provides a non-traditional method of learning for students residing in the United States and globally. The student-centered model provides instruction and the reinforcement needed to foster a successful environment and outcomes for those students who take full advantage of the program. Real-time responses, live classroom lectures, a dedicated student services team, highly-qualified teachers and innovative teaching methods offer students a new-aged approached to completing their high school diploma or individual coursework.

National High School is unique because it serves students across the United States and globally, thus the namesake. NHS currently has students enrolled from 43 states:

Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Idaho, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, North Carolina, North Dakota, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, Wisconsin, Wyoming, and the District of Columbia; and 23 countries: Afghanistan, Australia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Brazil, Botswana, Burundi, Canada, China, Egypt, France, Ghana, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Kuwait, Mexico, Morocco, Netherlands Antilles, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Switzerland, Syria, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom and the Virgin Islands. NHS also enrolls students from military states such as the Armed Forces Africa, Armed Forces Canada, Armed Forces Europe and the Armed Forces Middle East.

National High School has a current enrollment of 679 (as of March 2013). This figure fluctuates monthly because students complete courses and graduate at different times during the school year. Also, NHS has an open, continuous enrollment model which changes the numbers on a daily basis. Since 2007, National High School has enrolled nearly 6,000 students seeking credit recovery or high school diplomas.

Currently, NHS serves students from grade nine through twelve. NHS offers honors courses as well as NCAA designation for students seeking to play college sports. NHS is proud of its NCAA designation because very few private, online schools were able to retain this designation after the new NCAA legislation implementation in 2012.

Our current student population consists of 60% White, 25% Black, 10% Hispanic, and 5% other races. Sixty-one percent of the student population is female and 39% male. Student enrollment consists of 58.6% diploma seeking and 41.4% credit recovery.

We hire highly-qualified teachers from Georgia and other states and we also hire qualified staff. We look for people that not only have the

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credentials, but also have a passion for working with students, impacting their lives and working in a non-traditional high school environment.

Students enroll in the NHS diploma seeking program at a tuition rate of \$199 per month. If the student is credit recovery or individual courses, the tuition is \$399 for 1.0 credit and (up to two courses) and \$250 for 0.500 credit course. The tuition includes instruction, tuition, books and study resources.

Challenges that are unique to National High School are both similar and different from brick-and-mortar schools. One of the unique challenges NHS faces is that we are considered a tier 2 institution by the military which sometimes prevents NHS students from being able to enlist in certain branches of the military.

Another unique challenge for NHS is servicing students nationwide, with a physical campus located in Georgia, some college and university systems will not accept our diploma and some school districts will not allow students to withdraw and enroll with us even though NHS is regionally accredited.

Finally, funding can be a challenge as with any school. NHS does not currently receive any state or federal funding. We are completely tuition-driven. We have to turn people away from our program. We are looking for ways to find grant programs and/or scholarship opportunities to help with the cost for families and interested students. Unfortunately, our learning model prevents us from receiving certain types of funding.

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.

Mission Statement

National High School is committed to providing students the opportunity to receive a rigorous quality education through innovative learning methods. National High School offers a private, comprehensive, and affordable education to those students who desire to receive a high school diploma.

OBJECTIVES

-To provide students with a rigorous, 9-12 curriculum that is designed to meet the challenges of online learning, by affording students the opportunity to gain the necessary academic knowledge and life-skills in order to be successful after high school.

-To strengthen students' ability to complete a curriculum by providing the necessary technological tools, relevant learning materials, instructor guidance, and supplemental resources.

-To provide students the necessary tools, life-skills, and knowledge needed to become successful and productive members of society, productive members in the workforce, and/or competitive in postsecondary education.

-To develop students' individual learning and time management skills.

National High School (NHS) educates a variety of students from all walks of life. NHS provides instruction to students who need additional credits to transfer into high school programs or those who want to receive an accredited high school diploma just in a non-traditional manner.

NHS students and parents expect to receive the same, or better, instruction for their child, children, or themselves. When NHS enrolls a student, each potential student (parent/guardian) must complete the admissions process. This process allows NHS staff to determine if the student would succeed in the NHS program based on certain environmental factors. Once the process is completed and a student is determined a probable match for the NHS, the student is handed off to student services for orientation.

National High School provides a copy of the mission to parents and students. The vision of NHS is thoroughly discussed with potential students. NHS provides a detailed explanation and overview of the academic expectations for NHS. Parents are required to sign parent contracts and students are required to sign student contracts. These contracts signify mutual agreements between parents and students regarding policy and procedure. Student and parent contracts bolster a level of commitment to education and created a partnership. Parents and students gain an understanding of the expectations which encourages positive communication with the school.

NHS has found that once the foundation is laid during the admissions process, students understand school expectations. Also, this understanding fortifies the relationship between the institution and its stakeholders. By establishing an agreement with parents and students from the onset, this process offers opportunity for parents and students to become proactively involved in the educational experience and strengthens collaboration with the school in establishing goals, visions, and outcomes.

National High School's embodies its purpose/mission through its program offerings and expectations for students. The name 'National' is

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there for a reason, NHS seeks to provide educational opportunities for students around the country and around the world. Because of open admissions, and the sole nature of online learning, the school provides students an opportunity to utilize innovative learning methods, such as webinars, mobile apps (such as android and apple) and other technology to foster learning. We also have a strong student services department who are dedicated to each student individually.

In terms of rigor, all of our teachers are highly qualified and certified in content areas, we offer honors courses, two diploma options (regular and advanced) with the advanced diploma being the more rigorous of the two courses, student must take End-of-courses exams, and four assessments per course. Students do not expect the level of work and the commitment it takes to be successful in the program. We tell students and parents that the only difference between our school and a traditional school is that we do not have four walls.

In the past, NHS has offered advanced placement courses (AP) courses, but not during the 2012 year, NHS is in the process of revamping the AP program and its structure.

NHS college readiness, as measured by ACT in 2011, showed NHS surpassing the state in several areas and on level in mathematics. National High School results are 23.7 (compared to GA 20.1) were ready for college in the area of English, 20.0 (compared to GA 20.7) were ready for college in the area of Mathematics, 23.7 (compared to GA 23.7) were ready for college in the area of Reading, and 21.0 (compared to GA 20.3) were ready for college in the area of Science with a composite total of 22.0 for NHS and 20.6 for the state of Georgia.

NHS college readiness, as measured by ACT in 2012, surpassed the state of Georgia in all areas. National High School results are 23.0 (compared to GA 20.1) were ready for college in the area of English, 22.3 (compared to GA 20.6) were ready for college in the area of Mathematics, 25.3 (compared to GA 21.0) were ready for college in the area of Reading, and 22.5 (compared to GA 20.0) were ready for college in the area of Science with a composite total of 23.3 for NHS and 20.7 for the state of Georgia.

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.

National High School has grown tremendously in the past three years. We implemented a placement assessment for students who enroll with us internationally and for those who come from unaccredited schools. This exam provides the feedback needed in order to help us place students in appropriate courses and provides feedback for parents. NHS has a risk assessment that is provided to students upon enrollment that helps us identify those factors that may prevent students from matriculating through the program. It gives us the opportunity to get to know our students and their environments.

We have developed several relationships with school districts and schools around the country to provide to provide credit recovery options for their students. Also, schools have begun to recommend our program to a number of their students. We see more students returning to take more credit recovery courses with us. We see students who are in the credit recovery program enrolling as full-time diploma seeking students and we see more student and parent referrals.

National High school is proud of the Webex system that was added to our program about two and 1 1/2 years ago. This system allows us to generate attendance reports and monitor our classroom sessions seamlessly. It has added to the classroom experience for the students and the teachers.

We are in the processes of adding to the AP curriculum to provide those opportunities for students and we are looking to add 6-8 grades to the school. We are exploring the prospect of opening brick and mortar schools in near future.

Additional Information

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

National High School continues to promote controlled growth in order for us to continue to offer the small school environment and to prevent our students from becoming a number. We are proud of the fact that we get to know our students and parents even though we are in all parts of the nation and the globe.