Executive Summary

Connie Dugan Elementary School
Paulding County School District

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# 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>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Information</td>
<td>6</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?

Dr. Connie Dugan Elementary School is one of nineteen elementary schools located in a rural area of Paulding County, Georgia and shares a campus with South Paulding High School. Dugan Elementary opened in August of 2005 with almost 1,000 students and currently serves a population of approximately 750 students. Our school was named for Dr. Connie Dugan, a Paulding County educator for many years. She is remembered for her dedication to educating children and we strive to continue her legacy of creating a safe and nurturing learning environment to all students. Over the years, Dugan has built a reputation of quality, excellence, and service through the efforts of staff, parents, and students. As we begin our next school year with new administration and a few new faces, we hope to bring renewed energy and focus, and we look forward to building a school culture that transcends just educational needs.

For the 2013-2014 school year, Dugan Elementary has been identified as a targeted Title 1 school and will be serving approximately 750 students from Kindergarten through Fifth grade. Dugan Elementary also hosts one special needs Pre-Kindergarten class, and is gaining another class in the fall. We currently have a population of 52% female students and 48% male students. The demographic of our student body reflects the diversity of our community. Of the student population, the demographic make-up is 65% White/non-Hispanic; 21% African American/ non-Hispanic; 4% Multiracial; 9% Hispanic; and <1% Asian, Pacific Islander, American Indian students.

Approximately, 12% of students receive services through our Exceptional Students Education Program (ESEP); 1% of students are English Language Learners (ELL); 46% of students are from economically disadvantaged households; 24% of students receive services through the Reading Early Intervention Program (EIP); 23% of students receive services through the Math Early Intervention Program (EIP); and 6% are served through the Venture (gifted and talented students) Program.

Dugan Elementary has a total of 81 people on staff. There are 2 administrators, 1 school secretary, 1 bookkeeper, 1 office clerk, 1 counselor, 1 school nurse, 5 custodians, 7 cafeteria staff members, 1 school psychologist, 1 technology specialist, 1 media clerk, 1 speech therapist, 1 gifted teacher, 1 ESOL teacher, 1 occupational therapist, 11 paraprofessionals and 47 certified teachers. 65% of the staff members hold bachelors degrees, 25% hold masters degrees, 21% hold specialist degrees and <1% holds doctorate degrees. We also have 12 staff members with Reading Endorsement, 10 staff members who have completed MSP (Math Science Partnership) training, and 12 staff members who have participated in Math Workshop training. The average years of experience of our staff are 11.9 years and the average amount of years our teachers have been at our school is 6.2.
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.

Dugan Mission Statement
We are building a strong foundation by encouraging excellence and creating life-long learners.

Beliefs

We believe our students are our most-valued stakeholders, but it's the addition of family and school that enable them to achieve true success.
We believe all students can learn, and that all things are possible when taught to always try their best.
We believe that effective instruction is contagious.
We believe that building positive relationships with our students help reduce our number of discipline referrals.
We believe that analyzing data is crucial to having students meet and/or exceed our expectations
We believe in providing a safe, clean, and risk-free learning environment.
We believe that providing a positive, fun learning environment will create lifelong learners.
We believe in fostering school-wide collaborative planning.
We believe in the holding high standards for both academics and health.
We believe in leadership that maximizes the potential in all of our staff and 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.

Dugan Elementary offers an instructional program with our mission statement in mind. We are building a strong educational foundation by providing all students with quality instructional experiences, throughout all content areas. Academic offerings and opportunities at Dugan Elementary include:

- Focus on the whole child
- Standards-based instruction
- Reading and writing through all content areas
- Needs based instruction
- Georgia OAS (Online Assessment System)
- Compass Odyssey Learning
- Study Island
- DOK (Depth of Knowledge) questioning
- Student led conferences
- Family Curriculum Nights
- Surveys for students, parents, and staff
- Technology: computer lab, laptops, SMARTboards

Dugan Elementary staff works diligently to hold students to the highest of expectations. Some of the strengths noted from our stakeholder surveys are:

- Providing a safe and welcoming environment
- Differentiated instruction focused on student success
- Providing students with several reading resources
- Progress monitoring and data analysis
- Communicating with parents through our website, newsletters, and PTA
- Clear communication regarding student progress
- Block scheduling to maximize instructional time
- Afternoon tutoring
- Experiential learning
- High expectations for all students
- Continuous improvement process
Improvements achieved at Dugan Elementary are:

Daily use of Math Workshop
Standards break-down process (Making standards criteria in "kid-friendly" terms and setting a plan of how those goals can be reached)
We have been identified as a targeted Title I school for the 2013-2014 school year
Development of a school-wide math vocabulary list
Maintained AYP status
Our attendance rate exceeded 96% in 2012
94% of the student population in grades 3-5 meets and exceeds the standard as measured by the CRCT in reading
93% of the student population in grades 3-5 meets and exceeds the standard as measured by the CRCT in language arts
85% of the student population in grades 3-5 meets and exceeds the standard as measured by the CRCT in math
Language Arts scores on the CRCT for grades 3-5 have increased 4% since 2009-2010 school year
Math scores on the CRCT for grades 3-5 have increased 2% since the 2009-2010 school year

With our focus of continued reflection and improvement; we have several areas for improvement that have been noted by feedback from our staff, students, and parents. These areas are as follows:

Increase and update technology such as SMARTboards, SMART Response systems, laptop carts and document cameras
Provide structured professional learning opportunities focusing on reading and writing throughout all of the content areas
Enhance our school atmosphere by becoming intentionally inviting and holding more structured parent involvement opportunities
Improving Science and Social Studies achievements through reading and writing integration, incorporating more hand-on experiences, and using DBQ (Document Based Questioning)
Raising student Lexile scores by increasing reading rigor
Closing the achievement gap between students with disabilities and students without disabilities in grades 3-5
Closing the achievement gap between economically disadvantaged students and non-economically disadvantaged students without disabilities in grades 3-5
Provide any additional information you would like to share with the public and community that were not prompted in the previous sections.

Dugan Elementary offers a number of programs to challenge students to reach their highest potential and learn how to become productive citizens. Examples include Safety Patrol, 4-H, D.A.R.E, Art Club, Drama Club, Chorus and the Dugan Scoop, our little local news team.