

A graphic of a spotlight shining down from the top center of the page, creating a yellow cone of light that illuminates the title and the school's name.

# Spotlight School

**Dawson Springs Jr./Sr. High**  
*Dawson Springs Independent*

**GRADES SERVED: 6-12**

Dawson Springs Jr./Sr. High School, located in the southwest corner of Hopkins County in western Kentucky, serves approximately 250 students. The school's dedicated faculty and support staff are committed to student growth and achievement, fostering a culture of excellence through strong partnerships with students, staff and the community. Guided by the motto "Gold Standard," the school reflects a deep sense of pride and a longstanding tradition of academic excellence.

**PRINCIPAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:**

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## DEMOGRAPHICS

**64.8% Economically Disadvantaged**

**18.6% Students with Disabilities**

## WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS SCHOOL:

- 1.** The importance of relationships with high expectations
- 2.** Implementing flex periods for focused intervention and extensions
- 3.** Vertical alignment through deconstruction and prioritization of standards across levels

## SERVICES AND STRATEGIES USED TO MEET STUDENT NEEDS

The mission of Dawson Springs Jr./Sr. High School is to educate, equip and empower every student to be transition ready, college or career ready, and life ready. The school's vision is for every student and family to become lifelong learners who grow and thrive as responsible, productive and engaged citizens in an ever-changing world. Embracing the motto "A Tradition of Success," the school believes all students can learn at high levels and deserve a safe, nurturing learning environment. With the support of stakeholders, student achievements are celebrated and recognized.

The faculty and staff take pride in creating a flexible, individualized educational experience. Despite its small size, the school offers a comprehensive curriculum comparable to that of larger schools. Through partnerships with Kentucky Community and Technical College System (KCTCS) Madisonville Community College and Murray State University, students have access to a variety of dual credit courses both online and in person. The curriculum includes a wide range of courses in technology, art, music, science, history and literature, as well as vocational opportunities through partnerships with Caldwell County Area Technology Center and Madisonville Community College.

All of this takes place within a close-knit, family-like setting where strong relationships between students and teachers often continue well beyond graduation.

## WHAT DATA SUPPORTS THE EFFECTIVENESS OF SERVICES AND STRATEGIES OFFERED?

- Ranked #1 in Kentucky Summative Assessment (KSA) test scores 2022-2023.
- Ranked in the KSA top 20 schools 2023-2024.

## WHAT CHALLENGES HAS THE SCHOOL FACED? HOW WERE THEY OVERCOME?

Dawson Springs Jr./Sr. High School has faced financial constraints but has overcome this challenge by developing and implementing its own diagnostic tests, American College Testing (ACT) prep assessments and other tools to measure student achievement. This strategic approach has allowed the school to continue monitoring and supporting academic progress despite limited resources.

## WHAT ADVICE DOES THIS SCHOOL SUGGEST TO SCHOOLS ON THEIR JOURNEY TO SUSTAINED ACHIEVEMENT AND TRANSFORMATION?

This school emphasizes the importance of focusing on meaningful initiatives rather than pursuing every new opportunity, using the adage "Don't go after every golden apple, utilize the talent within your building." The school values the talent already present within its building, leveraging the strengths and expertise of its staff to drive improvement and support student success.



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