

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 parts of the text below.

# Spotlight School

## Pikeville High

*Pikeville Independent*

**GRADES SERVED: 7-12**

Pikeville High School is committed to providing an environment where all students can excel. Guided by the vision of preparing students to become engaged, responsible and productive citizens, the school emphasizes both academic excellence and opportunities beyond the classroom. Goals for student performance include increasing involvement in extracurricular activities, fostering success in daily school life and maintaining high academic achievement.

During the 2023-2024 school year, the district implemented initiatives such as Leader in Me and Kagan strategies to strengthen school culture, support student growth and enhance instructional practices. Pikeville consistently achieves American College Testing (ACT) scores above state and national averages, and its extracurricular programs remain competitive at both levels. The school is dedicated to developing the whole student in a caring and supportive environment. With a strong emphasis on school culture and a deep sense of community pride, Pikeville High considers itself a true gem in Appalachia.

## DEMOGRAPHICS

**32.5% Economically Disadvantaged**

**7.2% Students with Disabilities**

### PRINCIPAL AND CONTACT INFORMATION:

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## WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS SCHOOL:

- 1.** The importance of focusing on the whole student by providing extensive academic and enrichment experiences
- 2.** How to personalize academic supports to allow for flexible and innovative instruction

## WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THIS SCHOOL CONTINUED:

- 3.** Ways to develop strong partnerships, to demonstrate the power of community-based education
- 4.** Sustainment of a culture of achievement and recognition driving continuous growth amongst staff and students

## SERVICES AND STRATEGIES USED TO MEET STUDENT NEEDS

Pikeville High School is deeply committed to providing a comprehensive and evolving educational experience that meets the academic, social and emotional needs of all students. Through Extended School Services (ESS), students have access to consistent, individualized tutoring from both teachers and peers, ensuring academic support across content areas. Programs like the National Honor Society foster mentorship opportunities, and the school's focus on response to intervention (RtI) supports student growth with targeted instruction in reading and math at both middle and high school levels.

Curricular improvement remains a priority, with current efforts focused on redesigning curriculum maps to support vertical alignment and deepen student understanding across disciplines. Initiatives such as the Leader in Me, Kagan Cooperative Learning, and instructional coaching—made possible through the Pikeville Independent School District (PISD) Community Schools Grant and the Wilderness Education Project—enhance instructional quality and student engagement.

Pikeville High offers a wide range of opportunities for students to pursue academic and extracurricular passions. A variety of Advanced Placement (AP), online and dual credit courses, as well as partnerships with Artist Collaborative Theater and the Jobs for America's Graduates (JAG) program, provide diverse pathways for success. New extracurricular offerings such as men's volleyball and bowling, along with robust fine arts programs, contribute to a school culture where every student can find a place to thrive.

The school's achievements reflect its strong culture of excellence. Pikeville Independent has been named as a District of Distinction and Pikeville High School, a Career and College Readiness School of Distinction, with consistent Distinguished ratings. Student accolades include National Merit Scholars, a Coca-Cola Scholar, a Presidential Scholar and National Science Foundation STEM Scholars. Students have also been accepted into prestigious programs such as the Governor's Scholars Program, Governor's School for the Arts, Governor's School for Entrepreneurs, Gatton Academy and Craft Academy.

Pikeville's commitment to the whole student also shines through in athletics, where the school has earned nearly 200 Kentucky High School Athletic Association (KHSAA) district titles, 162 regional championships, 33 state titles and seven national championships across 22 varsity sports. Recent accomplishments include a 2023 State Football Championship (third in a row), state and national titles in cheerleading, regional championships in cross-country, and historic tournament runs in basketball and baseball.

With a focus on continuous improvement, intentional instruction, strong community partnerships and student-centered opportunities, Pikeville High School proudly lives its vision of preparing engaged, responsible and productive citizens.

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

- The high school has achieved a Blue rating, the highest level of distinction, for the past three years
- 94.9% of seniors in the Class of 2023 graduated
- Pikeville students consistently outperform state averages and rank among the top in the state for College and Career Readiness
- Pikeville's ACT state ranking continues to improve due to classroom integration of ACT content
- Despite COVID disruptions, the Class of 2023 juniors scored in the top 10 statewide

## AVERAGE ACT SCORES BY CLASS YEAR

- Class of 2022: 19.7
- Class of 2023: 22.1
- Class of 2024: 22.9 (with a math average of 23.7, highest in school history)

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

Pikeville High School is experiencing a shift in student population, with learners facing different challenges, concerns and problems than in the past. In response, the school is working to provide leadership opportunities that encourage students to take ownership of their education. Programs such as Leader in Me and JAG have been implemented to promote student leadership and responsibility.

To enhance instructional practices, the district has begun implementing Kagan strategies to foster cooperative learning and peer accountability. Increasing student engagement, promoting responsible citizenship both digitally and in real life, and supporting students as they navigate social relationships have become key areas of focus.

The school has incorporated bullying prevention lessons into classrooms across the district, with an emphasis on 7th and 8th grade. Paired with the Leader in Me initiative, these efforts aim to help students develop essential social skills that contribute to their academic success. Through intentional programming and a focus on the whole student, Pikeville High School continues to adapt and evolve to meet the changing needs of its learners.

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

The successes of Pikeville High School are built on a foundation of strong school culture. Cultivating a culture of servant leadership that is responsive to the needs of both faculty and students is essential. By aligning strategies with instructional goals and tailoring efforts to meet the specific needs of students, the school strengthens areas of success while identifying opportunities for growth among faculty and staff. This approach centers on building meaningful relationships, where strong connections between educators and students promote a deeper understanding of individual needs and a shared sense of purpose. In this environment, all students, faculty and staff feel equally valued. A common vision, developed collaboratively by stakeholders at multiple levels within the district, helps unite the community around a shared mission to serve students effectively.



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