



# Our Direction

**Palestine-Wheatley Senior High**

**Date of Report: 9/4/2019**

## **Vision:**

"One day all students who leave this district will be college and career ready; and have a goal, a plan, and a belief that they can overcome any obstacle that they come across. The PWHS will tirelessly work to produce students who are life-long learners, problem-solvers, productive members of society, and are prepared to pursue the next step of their personal vision of success."

## **Values:**

### **We believe that all children have dignity.**

This belief is important because if students are not treated as dignified members, they will not act accordingly; thus they will cease to believe in themselves. This will affect their learning, behavior, and emotional well-being.

### **We believe that all students should have access to pathways of opportunity.**

This belief is important because if students do not have access to the opportunities that exist, there is higher likelihood that they will continue in the cycle of poverty that comes with a post-high school career with no additional education or career training.

### **We believe all students should have academic and professional goals.**

This belief is important because a failure to plan is a plan to fail.

### **We believe all students should feel safe and loved at school.**

This is an important belief because it encourages growth and success. If students do not feel safe and loved, it will create a lack of a desire to come to school and promote absenteeism.

### **We believe all students need an advocate.**

This belief is important because without any external support for a child to succeed and be educated, the difficulty of succeeding decreases and the students' value of education decreases.

### **We believe it is the job of every educator to teach students to be life-long learners and productive community members.**

This belief is important because the purpose of education is to make the world a better place, and every person can help do that if they have the right mind-set, and are given the right set of tools to do so.

**Mission:**

PWHS will prepare students mentally, emotionally, and physically to help them function as productive citizens in society. In order to accomplish this, PWHS will encourage students to be actively enrolled in offered curriculum and special programs that encourage independent thinking skills, and working skills in technology, all in a safe and nurturing environment. Additionally, PWHS will maintain rigorous standards for student achievement that enforce college and career readiness. PWHS will strive to raise academic standards as well as graduation requirements, use assessments for improvement, and increase accountability and collaboration among teachers.

**Goals:**

- To increase student performance and proficiency in literacy
- To increase student performance and proficiency in math
- To increase support of the parents of the high school and encourage the formation of Parent Support group
- To promote healthy lifestyles at PWHS by monitoring nutrition, physical activity, and other school based activities

**Data Review:**

**Needs Assessments, Accreditation Reports, Similar Feedback:**

A comprehensive needs assessment was completed at Palestine/Wheatley High School to improve school achievement. Four types of data are included in the assessment: demographic, achievement, perception, and programs/process. The 7th – 12th grade high school is located in the Eastern Arkansas Delta and has a population of 385 students. The 2018 School Report Card indicated a poverty rate of 86%, and the school is 100% free and reduced lunch.

Parent Perception Survey results indicated that at least 91% of the parents felt “welcome at my child’s school,” “comfortable talking with my child’s teachers,” considered the “academic needs of students are met,” and “communication with families occurs in an open and respectful manner.”

Teacher Perception Survey results specified that at least 94% of the teachers considered the principal “effective in helping us reach our vision,” “supports shared decision making,” and agreed knowing their students’ interests and addressing student learning styles can increase student achievement.

Student Perception Survey 7th-12th grades combined results pointed out that 83% “felt welcome at this school” which is up by 4% from last year, 86% responded, “My teachers help me when I need it” and 92% felt their teachers want them to succeed. This is up from last year by 7%.

Graduation Rates for seniors derived from the 2018 ESSA School Index shows that Palestine/Wheatley High School’s 4-Year Graduation Rate was 92.19 and the 5-Year Graduation Rate was 91.53. Seniors graduating in 2015 were 87.3%, in 2016 89.8% and in 2017 it was 92.0%. The graduation rates exceeded the state’s average.

PWHS 2018 Overall ESSA School Index revealed: Overall ESSA Score was 64.48; the Weighted Achievement Score was 46.06; the Value-Added Growth Score was 78.37; and the School Quality and Student Success Score was 47.54.

The School Leadership Team will continue to collect data on the strengths and weaknesses of Palestine/Wheatley High School. Administrators and teachers will use practice ACT Aspire scores to modify instruction to improve academic performance at school and on state mandated tests. Proficiency in literacy is identified through reading level tracking 3 times a year and RTI is used to meet student’s needs. The school will hire and maintain qualified and certified math teachers. Google Classroom and login information for eSchool are methods of increasing parental support; in addition, the school district has created a platform on Facebook and Twitter to create and improve visibility to the community. More project based Science labs, critical thinking lessons, argumentative essays, logic lessons, and debates are being added to the curriculum to increase student aptitude and abilities. Healthy lifestyles are promoted through K-12 Culinary Connection, Anti-tobacco/Vaping campaign, and the addition of a weight room for school and community females.

#### **Student Outcome Data:**

State Standardized Assessments for 2017-2018 was the ACT Aspire. Grades 7th-10th indicated the following percentage of students who met the standard in 2018: 65.3% English; 26.8% Reading; 27.0% Math; 25.0% Science. English dropped by .7%; Reading dropped by 8.2%; Science dropped by 7.0%; and Math stayed even with last year's score.

State Standardized Assessments for 2016-2017 was the ACT Aspire. Grades 7th-10th indicated the following percentage of students who met the standard in 2017: 53.3% ELA Composite; 66% English; 35% Reading; 59% Writing; 29.5% STEM; 27% Math; 32% Science. The ELA Composite increased by 10%. Each of the areas tested showed an increase; however, Writing made the highest percentage gains. There was a 6.9% decrease in the STEM percentage largely due to the 10th graders scoring a 7% in Math.

State Standardized Assessments for 2015-2016 was the ACT Aspire. Grades 7th-10th indicated the following percentage of students who met the standard in 2016: 43.4% ELA Composite; 61.9% English; 33.2 % Reading; 31.5% Writing; 22.6% STEM; 25.5% Math; 23.3% Science. This indicated strength of 61.9% in English and weakness in all other areas. The lowest percentages were in STEM.

The average composite score for all high school students taking the ACT: 2015 was 18.1%; 2016 was 19.7%; 2017 was 17.9% and 2018 was 18.9%. ACT composite scores went up 1% for 2018, but PWHS is still .5 below the state composite average.

PWHS tested the 11th graders for the past three years. The test administration revealed average composite score for 2016 as 16.9%; 2017 as 18.7%; and 2018 as 17.8%. The composite score increased by 1.8% for 2017 but decreased by .9% in 2018.

PWHS attendance data was examined for school years 2014-2015 (94.5%), 2015-2016 (92.5%), 2016-2017 (94.0%). The outcome indicated an average attendance rate of 93.6% for the three years. Even though the attendance rate gained on the state average, the schools average remained slightly below the state's average of 94.2% but was above the state goal of 91.13%.

### **Our Leadership Team's progress in fully implementing Indicators and meeting Objectives:**

The PWHS Leadership Team meets twice a month for at least an hour each meeting to analyze data, monitor indicators, review testing data, and discuss pressing school matters that reflects on improvement. Since the 2018-2019 school year began, the Leadership Team has met to review past fully implemented indicators and to monitor continuous implementation. As of the present, we are assessing school needs, values, and goals in order to properly select new indicators.

### **Selected Indicators:**

#### **Establish a team structure with specific duties and time for instructional planning**

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ID09	The Leadership Team shares in decisions of real substance pertaining to curriculum, instruction, and professional development.(44)
ID10	The Leadership Team regularly looks at school performance data and aggregated classroom observation data and uses that data to make decisions about school improvement and professional development needs.(45)
ID11	Teachers are organized into grade-level, grade-level cluster, or subject-area Instructional Teams.(46)