



Executive Summary

Putnam County School System

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Introduction

Every school system has its own story to tell. The context in which teaching and learning takes place influences the processes and procedures by which the school system makes decisions around curriculum, instruction, and assessment. The context also impacts the way a school system 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 system, and the kinds of programs and services that a school system implements to support student learning.

 The purpose of the Executive Summary (ES) is to provide a school system with an opportunity to describe in narrative form the strengths and challenges it encounters. By doing so, the public and members of the community will have a more complete picture of how the school system perceives itself and the process of self-reflection for continuous improvement. This summary is structured for the school system to reflect on how it provides teaching and learning on a day to day basis.

Description of the School System

Describe the school system'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 system serves?

Putnam County is located in the "Lake Country of Georgia", bordered by Lake Sinclair and Lake Oconee with Eatonton, Georgia as the county seat. Eatonton, known as Georgia's Dairy Capital, is also the home of Vincent Hancock, an American shooter and Olympic athlete who won the gold medal in the men's skeet at the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing and 2012 Summer Olympics in London, Joel Chandler Harris, an American journalist, fiction writer, and folklorist best known for his collection of Uncle Remus stories, and Alice Walker, an American author and activist, who wrote the critically acclaimed novel *The Color Purple* (1982) for which she won the National Book Award and the Pulitzer Prize for Fiction. Eatonton is bordered by Highway 441 and Highway 129 and is strategically located between two universities. The University of Georgia in Athens is located 50 miles north and Georgia College and State University is located 22 miles south. The school system also has a relationship with Central Georgia Technical College, which provides dual enrollment courses for our students.

The mission of Putnam County Charter School System is to assist all students in acquiring knowledge, fostering aspirations and developing life skills that will empower them to become creative, self-directing, productive and contributing members of a global society with good job prospects throughout their lives. To that end Putnam County Charter School System established four system-wide goals that guide all system decisions.

1. To ensure high levels of performance for all students in Putnam County.
2. To ensure fiscal responsibility and effective resource stewardship.
3. To develop leadership and staff capacity throughout the system.
4. To actively engage students, parents and community.

The Putnam County Charter School System has begun their fifth year as a charter system and has applied to be renewed in July, 2015. PCCSS has four facilities; Putnam County Primary which serves Head Start, preK, kindergarten through second grade with a student population of about 836 students, Putnam County Elementary which serves third through fifth grade with a population of about 642 students, Putnam County Middle which serves sixth through eighth grade with a population of about 645 students, and Putnam County High School which serves ninth through twelfth grade with a population of about 719 students. The system is 79% economically disadvantaged (20% higher than the state of Georgia average), with almost 16% of the population students with disabilities, and 7% gifted. Other demographics include 11% Hispanic, 41% black, 44% white, and 4% other.

PCCSS has cultivated relationships with many business, educational and community stakeholders. Below is a list of these partnerships:

Georgia College and State University - Early College - Putnam County Middle and High
Central Georgia Technical College - Dual Enrollment - Putnam County High
Peoples' Bank - Student Recognition - Putnam County Primary, Elementary, Middle and High
Ritz Carlton - Internships and Service Learning Projects - Putnam County Middle and High
County Extension - 4-H - Putnam County Elementary and Middle
Performing Arts Society - Music Programs "OPAS" - Putnam County Primary, Elementary and Middle

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Classic Center/Athfest - Performing Arts Audio Visuals - Putnam County High

Boys and Girls Club - Afternoon Extended Learning - Putnam County Primary, Elementary and Middle

Kiwanis - Reading to Students and Student of the Year - Putnam County Primary, Elementary and High

Ferst Foundation - Books for students from Birth to PreK - Putnam County PreK and Primary

Local Businesses - Resources for Students and Teacher of the Year Recognition - Putnam County Primary, Elementary, Middle and High

Georgia Power - Summer Programs - Putnam County Middle

Master Gardeners - Summer Programs and Agriculture Lessons - Putnam County Primary, Elementary and Middle

The Performing Arts Center - After School Art Lessons, OPAS, Kazanetti-String Quartet, music in the schools - Putnam County Primary, Elementary, Middle and High

Dads of Good Students Watch DOGS - Tutoring - Putnam County Primary and Elementary

Youth Alliance - Tutoring and Summer Program, Entrepreneurs Club and mentoring - Putnam County Primary, Elementary, Middle and High

Tri County - Bright Idea's Grants for Teachers - Putnam County Primary, Elementary, Middle and High

System's Purpose

Provide the school system's purpose statement and ancillary content such as mission, vision, values, and/or beliefs. Describe how the school system embodies its purpose through its program offerings and expectations for students.

The mission of the Putnam County Charter School System is to assist all students in acquiring knowledge, fostering aspirations, and developing life skills that will empower them to become self-directing, productive, and contributing members of a global society.

The vision of the Putnam County Charter School System is a school system in which students, staff and community learn, grow and work together to embrace the future.

The Putnam County Charter School System believes that:

- Students come first.
- A good education prepares students to achieve a successful and purposeful life.
- All students achieve their maximum potential in a school that recognizes values and accommodates their unique abilities and interests.
- Honesty, fairness, respect, responsibility and compassion are essential to a healthy and productive environment.
- The development of the whole person socially, physically, intellectually and emotionally is imperative to success.
- Involving people in decisions that impact their lives promotes ownership, commitment, action, a sense of value and pride.
- A rigorous, standards-based curriculum and specialized programs are the foundations for success in literacy, career/work and life skills.
- Competence in technology is critical for equal access to communication and information.
- Highly qualified staff motivates and empowers students to reach their maximum potential.
- It is important to build, nurture and sustain relationships with students, colleagues, parents and community.
- Communication is a key component in a successful school system.

The Putnam County Board of Education establishes the goals and objectives that drive the educational decisions across the curriculum, professional learning and funding. The PCBOE develops and implements an accountability process with the purpose of building a mechanism to archive and share. The board works with the system and school level leadership team which includes the school governance authorities made up of staff, parents and community members. The leadership teams along with staff develop and implement an accountability process with the purpose of building a mechanism to archive and share the on going changes in programs and services that have been implemented to focus on student achievement.

The leadership of Putnam County recognizes the fact that the system is preparing students for a future that is constantly changing in knowledge and skills to be successful, therefore delivery of instruction and resources must be constantly aware of change and accept flexibility to implement change when needed. Staff and students must learn to always be prepared for change which requires on going professional learning that reflects not only the community changes, but the changes that impact success in a global society. Acknowledging the need for constant change requires monthly and yearly leadership meetings to evaluate data and reevaluate the board goals and objectives to realign them with the identified needs. This is accomplished with open communication with all stakeholders.

Notable Achievements and Areas of Improvement

Describe the school system's notable achievements and areas of improvement in the last three years. Additionally, describe areas for improvement that the school system is striving to achieve in the next three years.

Putnam County Charter School System notable achievements and areas of improvement:

CCRPI ranks Putnam County Charter School System 13th in the state

Received a College and Career Academy grant for the construction of the College and Career Academy addition which is on time and under budget

Received a \$2.4 million grant from the US Department of Labor to strengthen our College and Career programs

Putnam County High School graduation rate of 81.5% is now higher than that of the State of Georgia at 72.5%.

In 9th - 12th grade 150 students earned college credits

Middle School students over the last two years have earned high school credits by "Testing Out" of 9th Grade Literature (32 students in 2013 and 34 students in 2014) and Physical Science (25 students in 2014) with a 90 or higher on the End of Course Test.

The FY14 Summer Inspiration Program impacted over 900 of our students by providing opportunity to attend camps from a selection of 60 activities for seven weeks during the summer

Putnam County Charter School System received a grant and the Boys and Girls Club is now operational at PCMS and PCES

Putnam County has applied for their charter renewal which contains many innovations to provide for still greater progress over the next decade

Putnam County Charter School System completed the 2013-2014 school year under budget

The 2014-2015 budget eliminated furlough days for staff while reducing the burden on the taxpayers

Additional Information

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

Putnam County also provides an extended learning environment during the summer through a program called Summer Inspiration. For six to seven weeks students are given the opportunity to attend learning extension activity camps that are developed by individual staff members that showcase their passion for learning through experiences such as kids' culinary, robotics, archery, Spanish, virtual history, oceanography, dance, music, etc. Through sixty camps offered in the summer of 2014, students had the opportunity to participate in up to four different activities throughout the summer. During the seven weeks summer program over 900 students participated. Putnam County Charter School System recognizes that each child is an individual; that all children are creative; that all children need to succeed. Therefore, Summer Inspiration focuses on the individual needs of children by fostering a caring and creative environment and emphasizes the social, emotional, physical, and intellectual development of each child.