



Monitoring for Graduation Rate

Calhoun City Schools is committed to improving the graduation rate for students with disabilities. Our system has seen a steady increase in the graduation rate due to the collaborative efforts of our administration and key personnel.

CCS utilizes a comprehensive support system for our students with disabilities, including designated case managers, lead ESS teachers, a CTI coordinator, and central support staff. This team works together to target discipline, attendance, relationships and academics to support students with disabilities get across the finish line.

The ESS Director, district personnel and administrative teams at all schools meet once a month to share updates on data, resources, and targeted goals focused on student success.

The ESS Director provides professional development to teachers, paras and admin on issues related to students with disabilities on a monthly basis.

Discipline

- Monthly data is collected and analyzed by the assistant principals and the PBIS team on office referrals as well as ISS/ OSS data. This is shared with district personnel and the admin team at each school.
- Any discipline referrals made to the office are discussed with the case manager of the student. Questions that case managers, leads and admin should ask are:
 - “Have we done everything to support the student?”
 - “Is this issue coming from a need?”
 - “Does the IEP team need to come together to look at how we are supporting the student?”
 - “Does the IEP team need to change or add supports for this student?”

- Students who have a pattern of repeated behaviors are identified and extra steps are put into place to support them:
 - IEP meetings are held to examine supports and Behavior Intervention plans
 - Communication with parents is established
 - Purposeful partnerships are established with the student and a mentor staff member with whom they can “check in”
 - When appropriate, mental health support is provided through our partnership with Highland Rivers and interagency meetings for students who have needs beyond the walls of a school.

- Students in upper grades are encouraged to take an active role in their IEP meetings and with their behavior plans.
- Technical assistance is offered for teachers who may be struggling with behavior management through observations and feedback by the ESS Specialist and Teacher Leader Development Specialist.
- Targeted assistance is offered to teachers and students through consultation, observations and feedback with a behavior specialist who contracts with the school system twice a month.

Attendance

- Monthly attendance data is collected and analyzed at all schools. Students who miss more than 5 days or who are approaching 5 days within the first semester are looked at closely by the school level social worker. If appropriate, parent contact is made and a plan is put into place to support the parent, the child or both to decrease absences.
- School administrators and Social workers serve on the Truancy Treatment Team two times a month to support to students in partnership with community agencies. These meetings are to prevent court referrals and to provide support for families struggling with attendance.
- Home visits are made for students with excessive absences by our attendance officer, administrators, special education director, lead teachers or if appropriate, our school resource officer.
- Attendance interventions are implemented for students who may struggle with coming to school. Interventions range from check in/ check out to monthly meetings for at risk students in transition grades.
- Monthly recognition is given for homerooms with perfect attendance and Jacket Stingers (our internal reward incentive) are given to students who have good attendance or improve their attendance through interventions. Stingers can be

cached in for a lunch out, special events and other school level awards.

Relationships

- Calhoun City Schools is in Year 2 of Capturing Kids' Hearts which has built a culture of caring across the system. Teachers make direct and meaningful connections with students who have been identified as high risk (achievement data, discipline, social/ emotional, socio-economic issues). Because we are a small school system and as a direct result of Capturing Kids' Hearts we are able to work very closely with these students.
- Calhoun High School has a chapter of Best Buddies that creates one-to- one friendships for ESS students with developmental delays and general education peers.
- Calhoun High School provides a resource closet for students who may need clothing or school related items. This keeps our students in school because they have what they need to be successful.
- Our Parent Mentor works with ESS families to ensure that they have access to local resources and opportunities to support their children. She specifically targets Seniors so that she can guide parents on the decision making process for post secondary activities.
- Middle and High School students are encouraged to take part in extracurricular activities. All ESS students are welcome to participate in clubs, band, sports and other activities. On Friday nights, over two thirds of our student body is at the field in some capacity.

Academics

- All students conference with their parents and an advisor annually to plan their schedule in accordance with their transition plan and specific supports required for success. They are an integral part of advocating for their own interests and are strongly engaged in their own path to college and/or career.
- Small group classes are available in language arts and math if needed
- ESS students have access to study skills classes.
- Grades are reviewed each 9 week period and ESS students with failing grades are supported through direct consultation with teachers and parents. If needed the IEP team is pulled together to look at goals and IEP supports to meet the students' needs.
- ESS Case Managers are able to meet with ESS students during 5th block to help support their classes, provide interventions and work on progress monitoring.
- ESS students who attend the Calhoun Online Learning Academy are monitored

to check online coursework and credit recovery courses.

- ESS students are encouraged to take the Accuplacer. If they have qualifying scores they are able to take dual enrollment classes.
- Vocational Rehabilitation partners with our school system to meet with Juniors and Seniors to provide job coaching, assistance with acquiring learner permits, options for post secondary and other supports and resources to help students complete high school.
- Parents have an opportunity to attend parent meetings to acclimate their student to new the new school or classes. In addition, students who have specific needs are given an opportunity to schedule an individual tour or transfer.