

NASA Explorer Schools Sample Responses to the Application Question 1

Question 1: Describe the student demographics (in percentages) of the school(s) that will be represented by your team. If a consortium of schools, list each school and describe the demographics represented by each school on the team. (20 points possible)

Sample Response 1:

School X and School Y are urban schools that provide both regular and special educational services to K-8 graders living in city. The demographics of the current student populations of both schools are included in this narrative. It is anticipated that the School system's new approach to learning will be a focus for students to return to public school.

Student Demographic Data:

School X:

Total Enrollment: 507

Free and reduced lunch count as of October 1st, 2003: 74% eligible

Racial Data: White 8.6% Black 87% Other 4.4% Special Needs: 9.3%

School Y:

Total Enrollment: 335

Free and reduced lunch count as of October 1st 2003: 90% eligible

Racial Data: White 7% Black 92.8% Other .0029% Special Needs: 8%

As indicated by Free/Reduced Lunch Program eligibility data and performance data, the student population is at risk for failure in school. School X and Y are committed to providing at-risk students with renewed hope for a comprehensive education that will prepare them to be competitive in a modern technological society. This mission is a challenge since nearly all of the students come from disrupted and displaced families. Within the low-performing student population, some students are bright and are high performing, but clearly are not meeting their potential. They need experiences and exposure to challenging real-world materials that will foster continued advancement. The diverse needs of students are a challenge to the faculty who need to be teacher, counselor, mentor, playmate, and cheerleader throughout the extended school day.

Sample Response 2:

Z Middle School has been serving the southwest City area since its construction in 1922. Z Middle School has provided an educational program to all families who reside in this area and is a stable community institution that provides programs to both the student body and the community it serves.

Z Middle School services approximately 745 students in grades five through eight. Our current enrollment is 98.9% African-American, 0.3% white, 0.0% Asian, 0.8% Latino, and 0.0% Native Americans. 100% of our students qualify for free breakfast and lunch. We are also eligible as a Title I school. Approximately 84.1% of our students are classified as being a part of low-income families. We serve approximately 88 special education students and 24 Mentally Gifted students. Our daily attendance is approximately 86%.

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Programs funded with Title I funds include staffing of a Reading teacher and a Resource Room teacher. Title I funds are also allocated to professional development, community relations and parental involvement. Title I funds enhance our curriculum by supplying bus tokens, computer equipment and software, instructional aids, subscriptions and school supplies related to the Title I program. To further enhance the artistic abilities of our students, we added a music education teacher to our staff this school year. We also added a Community Relations Liaison to our staff whose main responsibility is to keep the community (support resources) and parents informed of all curriculum changes and improvements as well as social interaction improvements.

Sample Response 3:

Elementary School is located in Generic County, which is located in the upper plateau of rural Generic state. The county's population, in the 2000 census, is 28,105 with 5,802 (21%) of these living in the town. The county's ethnic breakdown is 57.3% white, 41% black, and 2.7% other. The county property tax rate is \$2.15 per \$100 of assessed value with \$1.56 of this going to education.

Elementary's campus consists of two separate buildings; one housing pre-school, kindergarten, and first grade and the other housing second through fifth grades, comprehensive development classes (CDC) and an emotionally disturbed class. The current enrollment is 992, which consists of 929 students (94%) in grades K-5, 39 (4%) in pre-school, 20(2%) in CDC classes, and 4(.004%) in emotionally disturbed. 241 students (24%) receive special education services. The ethnic composition of the school body is 69% black, 30% white, and 1% other.

The school is in its eighth year as a Title I school improvement project school. The staff consists of 54 regular classroom teachers, 12 special education teachers, a computer teacher, a part-time gifted teacher, a temporary learning center teacher, one full-time and one part-time art teachers, and instructional facilitator, a speech teacher, a librarian, and on full-time and one part-time music teachers, one consulting teacher, one nurse, thirty teacher assistants, two assistant principals, and one principal.

According to the 2000 census, 20% of the households in Generic County have an annual income of less than \$10,000, with an additional 11.5% making less than \$15,000. The median household income is \$28,651. 74% of our student population lives in poverty households. The Generic County unemployment rate is 8.9% compared to the state rate of 4.7%. Due to the community's inability to attract new industry and/or keep existing ones, most citizens must travel to other parts of the county or out of the county to find employment. 33.3% of the county's population over the age of twenty-five is functionally illiterate based on the 2000 census report. The University Studies on Illiteracy reported that Generic County is the number one county in the state for the number of students entering high school and dropping out before graduation.