

RCES School Improvement Council Annual Report to Parents

April 2023



School Improvement Council

South Carolina Statute (Act 135 of 1993) requires each of the state's School Improvement Councils to publish and distribute an annual Report to the Parents highlighting the progress the school is making in achieving the goals and objectives of the school's strategic plan. The report is developed by the School Improvement Council to share the challenges and successes of the school, students, parents and teachers for the current school year.

SIC Members:

- Dr. Chastity Evans, Principal
- Jennifer Bunch, Chair
- Awena Hurst, Vice-Chair
- Felisha Thompson, Secretary
- Annette Gunnells, Parent
- Davia Smith, Parent
- Laura Buss, Community Member
- Kevin Dalton, Community Member
- Cynthia Kilgus, Teacher
- Barbara Turner, Teacher
- Erica Glover, Teacher
- Heather Palmer, Teacher

Bamberg County School District

Empowering Every Child,
Every Day

Vision

Our vision is that every student is prepared to compete in a global society.

Mission

The mission of Bamberg County School District is to educate and empower every student to reach their greatest potential by creating safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environments.



Richard Carroll Elementary School Bamberg One School District

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Bamberg, SC 29003
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Progress on School Improvement Council Goals

Our School Improvement Council has made a lot of progress throughout the 2022-2023 school year. We are very grateful for the improvements we have made this year. The council is very proud of our teachers, students and families for demonstrating resilience, creativity, and collaboration throughout this school year.

This year, our School Improvement Council has focused on establishing effective goals. We are in the process of reviewing school level data and determining updated goals for the School Renewal Plan that will be written during the 2023-2024 school year.

The council is currently working on ways to improve parent involvement at Richard Carroll Elementary School. Parents and community members have significantly improved their willingness to participate in school events. In an effort to facilitate volunteers returning to RCES, the SIC has developed a parent volunteer goal in hopes of logging a minimum of 200 hours of volunteer time.

RCES has developed a Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) with the help of the SIC. They have worked hand in hand to meet the goal of the SIC to significantly increase parent involvement. The following are ways in which the PTO has increased parent involvement:

- Back to School Bash
- Fall Carnival
- Family Valentine's Dance
- Hot Chocolate & Popcorn Party

Each of these activities required many parent volunteers in order for the event to run smoothly and effectively. We are greatly appreciative to all the volunteers for their hard work and commitment to RCES!

The SIC set a goal this year to streamline our virtual instructional days in an effort to more effectively create schedules that parents can rely on. Although these days do not happen frequently, parents and guardians need to know what the learning expectations are when they do arise. This goal also allows teachers to more efficiently provide instruction to our students on days where virtual instruction takes place.

The final SIC goal of the year was to raise money for a digital sign for the front of the school. This goal would allow RCES to more easily update the sign, provide stakeholders access with up-to-date information frequently, and showcase all the great things taking place at RCES.

All RCES students in grades 5K-6th grade were given the opportunity to participate in two field trips this year. These off-campus trips exposed students to experiences and places they might not have otherwise had the opportunity to visit.

We continue to see many benefits as we enter our 7th year in partnership with The Original Six Foundation in fully funding our Afterschool Homework Center for select students in grades 3-6 four days per week taught by RCES teachers. This year, the O6 Foundation provided incentives for academic achievement and ten books for every kindergarten student.

RCES is also proud of the partnership with Southeastern Housing and Community Development. Numerous raised bed gardens have been built around the school that allow for hands-on learning in the planting, caring for, and harvesting of these plants.

Our School Improvement Council is always looking for ways to improve our school climate and culture. We thank you for your support and welcome any suggestions you might have as we continue to empower every student, every day!

What is DRA? Developmental Reading Assessment

Tasks measured by the DRA test are divided into several skill sets. Rhyming, alliteration, segmentation, and phonemic awareness are tested in the **phonemic awareness** section. Letter naming, word-list reading, spelling, decoding, analogies, structural analysis, and syllabication are tested in the **alphabetic principle/phonics** portions. Oral reading fluency or words per minute for contextual reading are tested under **fluency**. Vocabulary, comprehension, and reading engagement skills are also measured in the test.

- 5K DRA Levels - 73% on grade level
- 1st Grade DRA Levels - 35% on grade level
- 2nd Grade DRA Levels - 59% on grade level

What are Mastery Connect benchmarks?

MasteryConnect is the new tool educators are using in their classrooms to help create formative assessments, plan curriculums, administer benchmark assessments, and collaborate with other teachers.

What is MAP? Measures of Academic Progress

MAP assessments are computer adaptive achievement tests in Mathematics and Reading. 2. The computer adjusts the difficulty of the questions so that each student takes a unique test. The difficulty of each question is based on how well the student has answered previous questions.

Grade Level	Reading (% Average or Higher)	Math (% Average or Higher)
3rd Grade	55%	43%
4th Grade	41%	43%
5th Grade	39%	61%
6th Grade	40%	26%

SCReady

The South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Assessment (SC READY) is a statewide assessment in English language arts (ELA) and mathematics. y All students in grades 3–8, including students with disabilities and English learners (ELs), must be administered SC READY, except those students who qualify for the alternate test, as determined by their IEP team. y The SC READY tests measure the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards taught in ELA and Math classes.

Grade Level	ELA (% Meets or Exceeds)	Math (% Meets of Exceeds)
3rd Grade	43.5%	42.4%
4th Grade	28.0%	29.0%
5th Grade	33.0%	17.0%
6th Grade	38.9%	34.7%

A Special Thanks to Our Community Partners

- Bamberg First Baptist Church
- Bamberg Law Firm
- Columbia Jazz Foundation
- O6 Foundation
- Phoenix Specialty
- Piggly Wiggly
- Southeastern Housing and Community Development
- Trinity United Methodist Church



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