

# RCES School Improvement Council Annual Report to Parents

April 2022



## 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
- Jordan Smith, Assistant Principal
- Jennifer Bunch, Parent
- Awena Hurst, Parent
- Lesley Kinsey, Parent
- Davia Smith, Parent
- Laura Buss, Community Member
- Kevin Dalton, Community Member
- Talmadge Wiggins, Community Member
- Cynthia Kilgus, Teacher
- Connie Porth, Teacher
- Mary Templeton, Teacher
- Jan McCormack, 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**

1980 Main Highway  
Bamberg, SC 29003  
803-245-3043

## Progress on School Improvement Council Goals

Our School Improvement Council has made a lot of progress throughout the 2021-2022 school year. We are very grateful for the improvements we have made this year in moving forward after COVID. 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 re-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 school year.

The council is currently working on ways to improve parent involvement at Richard Carroll Elementary School. Because of COVID, parents and community members have been unable to participate in school activities. However, that is rapidly changing. In an effort to facilitate volunteers returning to RCES, the SIC has developed a needs assessment to determine what teachers need from volunteers in the community.

Project Beyond students in grades 3-6 (27 students) visited the S.C. State Museum on January 26, 2022. Students learned about our state's history through the many exhibits, they visited and shopped in the museum gift shop, and loved completing a student Scavenger Hunt throughout the museum. The 6th graders were even selected to visit the Relic Room at no extra charge to listen to an amazing historian share his knowledge of the Civil War and each student received a beautiful state house souvenir pin.

We continue to see many benefits as we enter our 6th 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 transportation to our students who are registered to attend the after school program, 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.

In November, 2021, EboniRamm, jazz vocalist/poet and Educational Outreach Coordinator with the ColaJazz Foundation, introduced our students to the history of jazz. As they learned about jazz, they also learned about American history as well as geography, not to mention music, art and culture...Americana in a fun and dynamic way. Our students loved the call and response aspect as well as the improvisation that is inherent in jazz. Our students' minds were opened to jazz and the possibilities of improved appreciation of this American art form as a cognitive learning tool.

This year, we have established a new partnership with Voorhees College. GEAR UP (Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) is a federally funded discretionary grant program designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. GEAR UP provides six-year or seven years grants to states and partnerships to provide services at high-poverty middle and high schools. GEAR UP grantees serve an entire cohort of students beginning no later than the seventh grade and follow the cohort through high school. GEAR UP funds are also used to provide college scholarships to low-income students. Voorhees GEAR UP!, a comprehensive, research-based project designed to fill gaps in school programs, meet the needs of low-income students and families, raise achievement, improve graduation rates, increase postsecondary enrollment and prepare youth for successful careers and their future roles as productive, adult members of society.

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 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	54%	45%
4th Grade	45%	53%
5th Grade	49%	38%
6th Grade	54%	41%

## 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	38%	42%
4th Grade	27%	30%
5th Grade	31%	18%
6th Grade	26%	28%

## 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
- Voorhees College - GEAR Up





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