

Dear Parents and Guardians,

This has been an exciting year at Pocalla Springs Elementary. We have participated in many initiatives and have earned several recognitions. We are able to accomplish these things because at Pocalla Springs Elementary, we Aim for Success!

Pocalla Springs aims for success by being a school where students are prepared to learn and ready to meet the challenges of each day. We aim to have a school where parents are actively involved and participate in their child's education by attending workshops and special events, and by encouraging school attendance, good homework habits, and excellent behavior. We aim for a safe and supportive environment across the entire day—whether it is on the playground, on the bus, in the hallways, or in the cafeteria.

Pocalla Springs aims for success by developing professional learning opportunities based on our population and needs. Opportunities include Standards-Based Curriculum Delivery, Multi-Tiered Systems of Support, Test Analysis, Time to Teach, Book Studies, Understanding Poverty, and Technology-based Learning. Our Reading Coach facilitates activities to improve instruction and to create a rich, literacy-based learning environment for students.

Pocalla Springs aims for success by contributing to and caring for the community. Service Learning initiatives include Shower Shaw with Cookies, Career Fair, and other projects to beautify the environment and raise awareness. Our philanthropic effort has been mainly geared toward the American Cancer Society and Relay for Life, but we also make significant donations to other organizations such as March of Dimes and St. Jude's Children Research Hospital.

Thank you for working with us and for giving us the opportunity to serve your child.

Teresa Dennis, Chairman  
School Improvement Council

Dr. Laura M. Brown, Principal

## Pocalla Springs Elementary School

Principal .....Dr. Laura M. Brown  
Assistant Principals. Dr. Candy Richburg  
Teresa Dennis  
Reading Coach ..... Claudia Medlin  
Counselors..... Alice Singleton  
Donna Johnston  
SIC Chairperson ..... Teresa Dennis  
Secretary/Bookkeeper ..... Janice Brown  
Teacher of the Year ..... LaTonya Alston

### Our Beliefs

- Student learning is the chief priority for the school.
- A safe and physically comfortable environment promotes student learning.
- Teachers, administrators, parents, students, and the community share the responsibility for advancing the school's mission.
- The commitment of continuous improvement is imperative at our school and will enable students to become confident, self-directed, and lifelong learners.

### Our Vision

Committed students, staff, and parents  
achieve the best education.

## Pocalla Springs Elementary School Report to Parents

2017-2018



**The mission of  
Pocalla Springs  
Elementary School is  
to ensure the best  
education for every  
child.**

**2060 Bethel Church Road  
Sumter, SC 29154  
(803) 481-5800**



Chairperson ..... Teresa Dennis  
 Principal.....Dr. Laura M. Brown  
 Librarian .....Louise Kay  
 MTSS Coordinator ..... Corey Ripley  
 Parent.....Alice Singleton  
 Parent.....Julie Denton  
 Parent.....Rashida Durant  
 Parent.....Amy Strickland  
 Community ..... Teresa Dennis  
 Community ..... Charlene Miller  
 Community ..... Danny Shaw  
 Staff ..... Karen Gadson  
 Staff ..... Anita Simon  
 Ex Officio ..... Dr. Candy Richburg



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**Accomplishments, Awards, and Initiatives**

One to Global Chromebooks  
 Accredited -Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and The Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation  
 AfterCARES and Wee Braves  
 Alice Drive Baptist Church Partner  
 American Heart Association supporter  
 Back to School Orientation  
 Balanced Literacy  
 Black History Month Celebration  
 Book Fairs  
 Breakfast in the Classroom for All Students  
 Career Awareness  
 Choir  
 District Clean School Award Winner  
 District Teacher of the Year  
 Exxon Science Grant  
 Facebook Page and Website @ PSES.sumterschools.net  
 Fall Festival and Spring Pocallapalooza  
 Family Nights and Parent Workshops  
 Pocalla Springs Into Action  
 Grade Level Planning & Professional Development  
 Heart Walk, March of Dimes, Relay for Life  
 Kindness Certified School  
 Military Kids Appreciation Recognition  
 Multi-Tiered Systems of Support  
 Parent Workshops and Family Nights  
 LetterLand Multi-Sensory Phonics Program  
 Red Ribbon Week and Drug Awareness Week  
 School-wide Title One  
 Shower Shaw with Cookies  
 Volunteer and Mentor Programs  
 Washington, DC field trip for 5th grade



**Summary of Needs Assessment**

In order to develop the Pocalla Springs Elementary Strategic Plan, district and school level administrators, teachers, parents and community members analyzed data from the last four school years. The sources included the SC Ready, SC PASS, Next Steps Reading Assessments and Measures of Academic Progress (MAP). The team also analyzed survey results from parents, teachers and students. They reviewed discipline/suspension reports, attendance trends, and teacher turnover rates. After a review of all data, teams developed strategies and activities based on specific areas of weakness and strength.

**Student Achievement**

The early childhood level requires emphasis on the implementation of strategies that address academic expectations, assessment procedures, and literacy skills. Continued emphasis on a strong family literacy program has been identified as a major need for children and families in this group.

**Teacher Quality**

In order to ensure teachers are highly qualified, ongoing professional development must be provided. Therefore, a major area of focus will be an emphasis on training, as well as recruitment and retention.

**School Climate**

Review of perception data, discipline and attendance records indicates a need for connecting with students and the community. Professional development focusing on school/home relationship is shown to be a major need, along with a continued emphasis on service learning and school-to-work initiatives.

**District Priority**

Technology has been established as a district priority objective.

**Pocalla Expectations**

- Be Ready**
- Respect Others**
- Act Responsibly**
- Value Myself**
- Enjoy Learning**
- Stay Safe**

