

Lexington High School School Improvement Council (SIC) Report to Parents 2024



Student Achievement

Student achievement encompasses various aspects of academic success and readiness for future endeavors. Achievement is not merely about completing courses, but also entails students progressing through their educational journey in a timely manner. A critical measure of student achievement is reflected in graduation rates, ideally surpassing the graduating class of 2023 benchmark of 92.6%, which is above the district average of 88.2%. However, achievement extends beyond obtaining a diploma; it encompasses preparing students to be college or career ready which should be increased from our 2023 standard of 79.7%. Lexington High School strives to continue to foster an environment where students not only excel academically but also acquire skills and knowledge necessary for success in higher education and the workforce. The goals in **Student Achievement** for LHS in 2023-24 are listed below:

Student Achievement Goal: Increase the percentage of students who are progressing on-time with the requisite skills for success at their current grade levels.

Targets

1. English: The percentage of students who meet or exceed standard (C or higher) on the English 2 EOCEP will improve to 89% from 84.7% in 2023.
2. Math: The percentage of students who meet or exceed standard (C or higher) on the Algebra 1 EOCEP will improve to 68% from 63.7% in 2023 .
3. Science: The percentage of students who meet or exceed standard (C or higher) on the Biology 1 EOCEP will improve to 61% from 56.2% in 2023.
4. Social Studies: The percentage of students who meet or exceed standard (C or higher) on the US History and Constitution EOCEP will improve to 66% from 61% in 2023.
5. Graduation Rate: The on-time graduation rate based on the 4-year cohort will improve to 93.5% from 92.6% in 2023.
6. Student On-Track: The percentage of students on track to graduate will increase to 90% from 85.9% in 2023.

Teacher Quality

In the Fall of 2023, the Lexington High School faculty focused on a year long teacher-led curriculum design to eliminate inconsistencies and know what students are supposed to learn or get the opportunity to learn, what gets assessed and what is actually learned. Teacher leadership capacity and providing professional learning opportunities where educators have the autonomy to design their curriculum play pivotal roles in promoting teacher quality. Through our **23-24 Professional Learning Plan**, empowering teachers to take on leadership roles within Lexington High School fosters a culture of collaboration, innovation, and continuous improvement. When teachers are given the opportunity to lead professional development sessions or mentor their peers, they deepen their understanding of instructional practices and subject matter expertise. Additionally, granting teachers the autonomy to design their curriculum allows for greater alignment with student needs, pedagogical innovation, and differentiation to meet diverse learning styles. This autonomy not only enhances teacher satisfaction and morale but also results in improved instructional quality, ultimately benefiting student outcomes. Teacher Leaders/Department Chairs focused on side-by-side coaching, and created interdepartmental roles to support the immersion of curriculum design using the learner profile. By investing in teacher leadership capacity and professional learning opportunities that prioritize autonomy and collaboration, Lexington High School will continue to cultivate a cadre of highly effective educators who are better equipped to meet the dynamic demands of 21st-century education. The goals in **Teacher Quality** for LHS in 23-24 are listed below:

Teacher/Administrative Quality Goal: Teachers will continually develop their craft to deepen their learning and student's learning using the *Profile of a Wildcat* through Design Team meetings twice a month, one facilitated and one independent; Department Chairs and Educational Consultant meet each quarter; Department Chairs and Assistant Principals participate in check-ins each quarter.

Targets

1. Build capacity around the value of a learner profile for educators and students.
2. Break silos as we focus on strategies that build skills for deeper learning / learning that transfers.
3. Immerse teachers in constructivist approaches to curriculum design using the learner profile as a guide.
4. Build teacher leadership capacity:
 - a. Department Chairs will focus on side-by-side coaching
 - b. Interdepartmental leadership roles

School Climate

Improving the school climate at Lexington High School is paramount to ensuring the safety and well-being of students and staff while fostering healthy behavioral growth and mental wellness. With targeted goals in mind, the school is dedicated to enhancing engagement and safety among its community members. By increasing the number of students, staff, and parents who feel engaged and safe, Lexington High aims to cultivate an environment where everyone feels supported and valued. Additionally, initiatives to boost staff attendance by .6% percent will not only provide additional instructional time but also contribute to a more consistent and reliable presence within the school community. Furthermore, efforts to improve student attendance, aiming for a daily average of 94%, reflect the commitment to maximizing learning opportunities for all students. Alongside these efforts, increasing student, staff, and parent engagement, as indicated by the state climate survey, underscores the importance of effective home-school communication channels. Through collaborative efforts and targeted interventions, Lexington High School is dedicated to fostering a positive and inclusive school climate where every member can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. The goals in **School Climate** for LHS in 23-24 are listed below:

School Climate Goal: Improve the conditions, systems and structures to ensure safety and facilitate healthy behavioral growth and mental wellness of students and staff.

Targets

1. Increase the staff attendance (leading to additional instructional time) to 95% from 94.4% in 2023.
2. Student attendance as evidenced by average daily attendance improving to 94% from 93.26% in 2023.
3. Increase parent engagement from 85.4% to 86.5% as evidenced by the state climate survey on identified questions related to home/school relations from SY22-23 to SY23-24.

Wildcat Celebrations in Academics, Arts and Athletics

The following recognitions are first place winners/state champions/gold medalists. We have much to celebrate! Go Wildcats!

ACADEMICS

- US Senate Youth Program in Washington DC - Austin Rios
- US Presidential Scholars Program - Michael Boswell
- National Youth Delegate for *Washington Youth Summit on the Environment* at George Mason University - Samantha Dunn
- VEX Aerial Drone Triple Crown State Champion
- Model United Nations (UN) - 2024 Overall Midlands Cup
- Model UN - Best Delegation for Eswantini in the DISEC committee at University of Georgia
- Model UN Winthrop Cup Winners March 2024 at Winthrop University's Model UN XLVIII
- 46th Annual Model United Nations -2024 Winthrop Cup Champions
- Math Team 1st Place at USC Columbia Math Competition Division I
- MCEC Youth Summit - Taryn Smoak
- Fifty-Two students earned the SC Seal of Biliteracy
- Darla Moore School of Business SC Economics Challenge Champions for AP/IB Division
- Four National Merit Scholarship (PSAT/NMSQT) Finalists
- One National Merit Scholarship (PSAT/NMSQT) Commended
- Two Teaching Fellows
- Forty-Two Palmetto Fellow Applicants
- Host School for Annual Military Signing Day and Purple Star Designation Ceremony
- Highest Attainable Score on the 2023 SC Ready Assessment- Jacob Hernandez
- Gold Banner School for *Students in Action (SIA)* from the Multiplying Good Organization
- Fourteenth Annual Lander Film Festival - Wildcat TV - 1st Place Austin Rios

ARTS

- SCBDA Overall Performance Award for 23-24 - Band
- Eighteen All - Region Orchestra students
- Three SCMEA All - State Orchestra.
- Twenty-one District Honors Orchestra.
- Concert Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, and Honors Chamber Orchestra received an *Excellent* rating at SCMEA Concert Performance Assessment.
- SCMEA Solo & Ensemble (Orchestra): LHS had nine solos, five duets, two trios, and a quartet receiving a *Superior* rating and six solos and two duets receiving an *Excellent* rating. Additionally, four events received a rating of *Superior With Distinction*, a perfect score.
- SCMEA Silver Outstanding Performance Award 23-24 Orchestra
- 2023 Cat's Paw Yearbook was awarded an All-State rating
- Five All-State Choir students
- Lexingtones earned three Superior Ratings at Carowinds Festival of Music
- Gold Rush earned one Superior and two Excellent ratings at Carowinds Festival of Music
- Fourteen District Honor Choir participants
- Twenty-Two All-Region Chorus at Newberry College
- Concert Choir earned three Superior ratings at Concert Performance Assessment (CPA) at Charleston International University
- Wildcat Dance Team State Champions in Jazz
- Wildcat Dance Team - 1st Place Jazz at Capital City Dance Classic
- Wildcat Dance Solo - 1st Place/State Champ - Lauren Smith
- Drama teacher, Leslie Dellinger, inducted into the PDA Teacher Hall of Fame
- SCBDA Masters Recital South Carolina finalists - Jayme Brigman and Jackson Winston
- Percussion Ensemble received a Superior Rating at SCBDA Concert Festival
- Forty-seven students selected to SCBDA Region 2 Honor Bands
- Two students selected to All State Orchestra Wind Section
- Eight students selected to All State Band
- Varsity Winter Guard CWEA National A Silver Medalists
- Varsity Winter Guard 6th place WGI National Championships in Dayton, Ohio scoring 92.735 - the highest WGI score in school history
- Varsity Winter Guard CWEA Ninety Six National A - 1st Place

- Varsity Winter Guard CWEA Byrnes National A - 1st Place
- Varsity Winter Guard CWEA Dorman Premier West - 1st Place
- Varsity Winter Guard WGI Southeast Color Guard
Power Regional Scholastic Championship in Atlanta - 1st Place
- JV Winter Guard CWEA Ninety Six Scholastic AAA - 1st Place
- JV Winter Guard Gold Medalist in Scholastic AA Division
- Wind Ensemble Superior with Distinction - SCBDA Concert Festival
- Symphonic Band - Excellent Rating SCBDA Concert Festival
- SCSTA Awards - Poetry Interpretation - Lyn Glidden - 1st Place
- SCSTA Awards - Original dramatic - Danielle Blankenship - 1st Place
- SCSTA Awards - Audition monologue - Nic Elkins - 1st Place
- SCSTA Awards - Triple Threat - Danielle Blankenship - 1st Place
- Scholastic Gold Key - Maggie Bessac
- Youth Art Month Central Region Show - Secondary Division - Milo Tatum- 1st Place
- Music for All 2024 Honor Band of America - Jackson Winston

ATHLETICS

- Wildcat Inclusive Cheer - Special Olympics Cheer Gold Medalists
- Seven seniors recognized with Special Olympics Honor Cords
- Safe Sports School Award - LHS Athletic Training Department
- 5A State Champion Swimming 100 yard freestyle - Noah Blashka
- 5A Wrestling State Champion 144 lb - Breydon Jennings
- 5A Boys Basketball State Champions
- 2024 Boys Basketball Coach of the Year - SCACA (South Carolina Athletic Coaches Association) - Elliott Pope
- 5A Strength Individual State Champion - Artem Kalinkin
- Seven Region Champions
- Five Region Players of the Year
- Ninety-Six All-Region Athletes
- Twenty-five All-State Athletes
- Eighteen North/South Athletes
- Seventeen College Signees
- Two-Time Gatorade SC Boys Basketball Player of the Year - Cam Scott
- NFHS 2023 SC Coach of the Year, Girls Cross Country - Tanner Graham
- Over 270 Varsity Student - Athletes have a 3.5 GPA or higher.

Ann O’Cain, Interim Principal
Lisa Catalanotto, School Improvement Chair
Bryson Williams, Assistant Principal
Brendan Cafferty, Assistant Principal
Dr. Stephanie Burgess, Assistant Principal
Tiffany Goodson, Assistant Principal
Chris Martinez, Assistant Principal
Sarah Beckett, Director of School Counseling



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Mission Statement

The mission of Lexington High School, where excellence is the standard, is to develop lifelong learners who meet the demands of a global society. In partnership with parents, students, educators, and community members, Lexington High School will provide curriculum and instruction that encourage both diversity and unity, develop integrity and character, and promote initiative and collegiality among our students.

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

ENTER TO LEARN, LEAVE TO SERVE