

SAXE GOTHA ELEMENTARY

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.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL MEMBERS

Joseph Casey, Principal	Amy Cooper, Assistant Principal
Katelyn Sullivan, Parent/SIC Chair	Michael Hightower, Parent
Ketsie Merizalde, Family Liaison	Jill Parker, Community Member
Margie Dennis, Community Member	Robyn Neville, Teacher
Andy Newell- Community Member	Carmen Cimpian, Teacher

iReady is a district, formative assessment administered to students three times a year. The assessments are computer-adapted and utilized by teachers and administrators to inform instruction to meet the needs of students.

iReady Reading - At/Above Benchmark

Kindergarten - Fall: 13%	Winter: 83%
1st Grade - Fall: 10%	Winter: 46%
2nd Grade - Fall: 18%	Winter: 52%
3rd Grade - Fall: 36%	Winter: 59%
4th Grade - Fall: 27%	Winter: 40%
5th Grade - Fall: 31%	Winter: 49%

iReady Math - At/Above Benchmark

Kindergarten - Fall: 13%	Winter: 66%
1st Grade - Fall: 7%	Winter: 34%
2nd Grade - Fall: 3%	Winter: 34%
3rd Grade - Fall: 18%	Winter: 26%
4th Grade - Fall: 21%	Winter: 33%
5th Grade - Fall: 31%	Winter: 56%

The Spring testing window of iReady occurs in April and May.

MISSION

Our mission is to ensure all children learn, grow, and excel in a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment.

VISION

We are the Shining Stars.

We are kind.

We are knowledgeable.

We are resilient.

We are growing as learners and we belong here.

AWARDS & ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Special Olympics National Unified Champion School
21st Century Community Learning Center Grant Recipient

Saxe Gotha Elementary School

Joseph Casey, Principal (jcasey@lexington1.net)
Amy Cooper, Assistant Principal (acooper2@lexington1.net)
Brendon Matuszek, Assistant Principal (bmatuszek@lexington1.net)

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PROGRESS ON SIC GOAL FOR 2025-2026

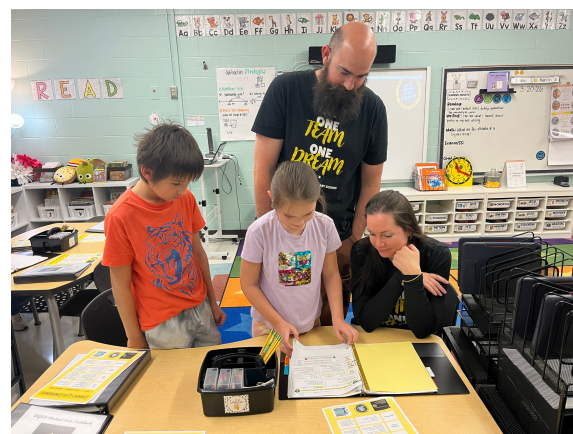
The 2025-2026 Saxe Gotha Elementary School Improvement Council focused on a singular, powerful mission: to ensure all children learn, grow, and excel in a safe, supportive, and inclusive environment. Building upon our foundation of community engagement, this year we shifted our focus toward empowering our students as leaders of their own learning. By deepening our instructional practices and strengthening our school climate, we have worked tirelessly to ensure our students thrive as kind, knowledgeable, and resilient learners. Our academic goals this year were driven by a commitment to high-quality, data-driven instruction. We recognized that as our students matriculate through the grade levels, the complexity of the standards increases. To meet this challenge, we prioritized:

- Professional Learning Teams (PLTs): We protected every Tuesday for our teachers to engage in the PLC at Work process. This allowed our educators to work closely with instructional coaches to write high-quality lesson plans and unpack the South Carolina College and Career Readiness Standards to ensure all instruction is "on-target" and rigorous.
- Data-Driven Decisions: Our teachers have deeply engaged in LETRS training, empowering them to diagnose reading struggles effectively and implement swift interventions. We are proud to report that 55% of our students have improved their placement in reading.
- Flexible Intervention: By using summative assessment data, we created flexible intervention groups designed to close achievement gaps and accelerate progress for every child.

The final piece of our work this year focused on the Lexington One Graduate Profile. We believe that for students to excel, they must possess 21st-century skills like resilience and collaboration. We have begun explicitly connecting academic targets to these competencies, fostering student ownership of their education. Through initiatives like Student-Led Conferences and Data Notebooks, our students are becoming the leaders of their own learning journeys, preparing them for success long after they leave our doors.

Our school community is thriving, and it is the collective hard work of our teachers, the dedication of our parents, and the big dreams of our students that make Saxe Gotha Elementary a wonderful place to be a student, an educator, and/or a parent.

One Team, One Dream!



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY & BUSINESS PARTNERS

Saxe Gotha Presbyterian Church
Lexington County Sheriff's
Department
WP Rawl Farms
Dickerson Children's Advocacy
Center
LifeChanges Family Guidance &
Wellness
Lexington County Mental Health
Highway 55
Marco's Pizza
Starbucks
Lowe's Foods
Publix
Office Depot
The Lex Nutrition & Energy
Northside Baptist
Lexington Church of God
St. Peter's Lutheran
Zaxby's
Sesquicentennial State Park
The Just A Chicken Guys
Terminix
The King Realty Group
Legacy Martial Arts

Mid-Carolina Electric Cooperative
Lexington County Fire Service
Lexington County EMS
SC Department of Natural
Resources
USC School of Education
USC School of Dance
Lexington County Blowfish
Lexington County Public Library
Mosaic Church
Radius White Knoll
Covenant Community Church
Saint James Lutheran
Mt. Horeb Methodist
Red Bank United Methodist
Lexington United Methodist
Red Bank Baptist
The Heritage Co
Mac's Realty
Groucho's
Columbia Martial Arts
SC Career Kids
Lexington Soil and Water
Conservation District
MacDavey Heating & Air

Saxe Gotha Elementary School

Lexington County School District One is committed to a policy of nondiscrimination and equal opportunity for all students, parents/legal guardians, staff, visitors, personnel and community members who participate or seek to participate in its programs or activities. Therefore, the district does not discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, religion, sex (including pregnancy, childbirth or any related medical conditions), color, disability, age, genetic information, national origin or any other applicable status protected by local, state or federal law.

The district will use the grievance procedures set forth in policy to process complaints based on alleged violations of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; Title IX of the Education Amendments Act of 1972; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973; the Age Discrimination Act of 1975; the Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967; the Equal Pay Act of 1963; the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act of 2008; and Titles I and II of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

The district designates specific individuals to handle inquiries or complaints. To find out whom to contact and how to contact them, please go to our website at <http://www.lexington1.net/contact-us>.