



PICKENS MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORT TO FAMILIES

School Improvement Council 2024-2025

Abstract

This report to families reflects highlighted data from the final school improvement council/Title I meeting of the 24-25 school year. Ongoing strategies to enhance world class knowledge is important for improvement. This is in addition to our outstanding programs which emphasize world class skills and life and career characteristics as part of our goal to help fulfill the profile of the SC Graduate for all students.

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Pickens Middle School

Phone: 864.397.4100 | 140 Torch Lane, Pickens, SC 29671

Our Mission

To prepare students for college and career readiness

Our Vision

Empowering students to realize the best in themselves and others each day.

Our Beliefs

- Students' basic needs must be met before learning can occur.
- All students can achieve ON grade level mastery of essential standards.
- Students who are prepared for life beyond school require world class skills and life and career characteristics in addition to world class knowledge.

Personalized Learning Academy

- Positive Morning Assemblies
- RCA House System (Advisor/Advisee)
- Weekly Meetings in
 - Leadership, Service, Innovation, Visual and Performing Arts

Current Awards and Recognition

- Beta School of Distinction or Merit (2017-2025)
- PLTW Distinguished School (2025)
- VEX Robotics State Qualifier (2020-2022)
- VEX Robotics National Qualifier (2021-2022)
- ELA Growth 2nd in SDPC (2023)
- SC. Office of Personalized Learning Inquiry Lab Host
- RTI at Work School
- Undefeated Conference Volleyball Champions (2014-2024)

What Sets Us Apart?

11 High School Credit Classes!

21% of 8th graders take high school credit classes at the Pickens County Career and Technology Center

63% of students take at least one High School credit course while in Middle School

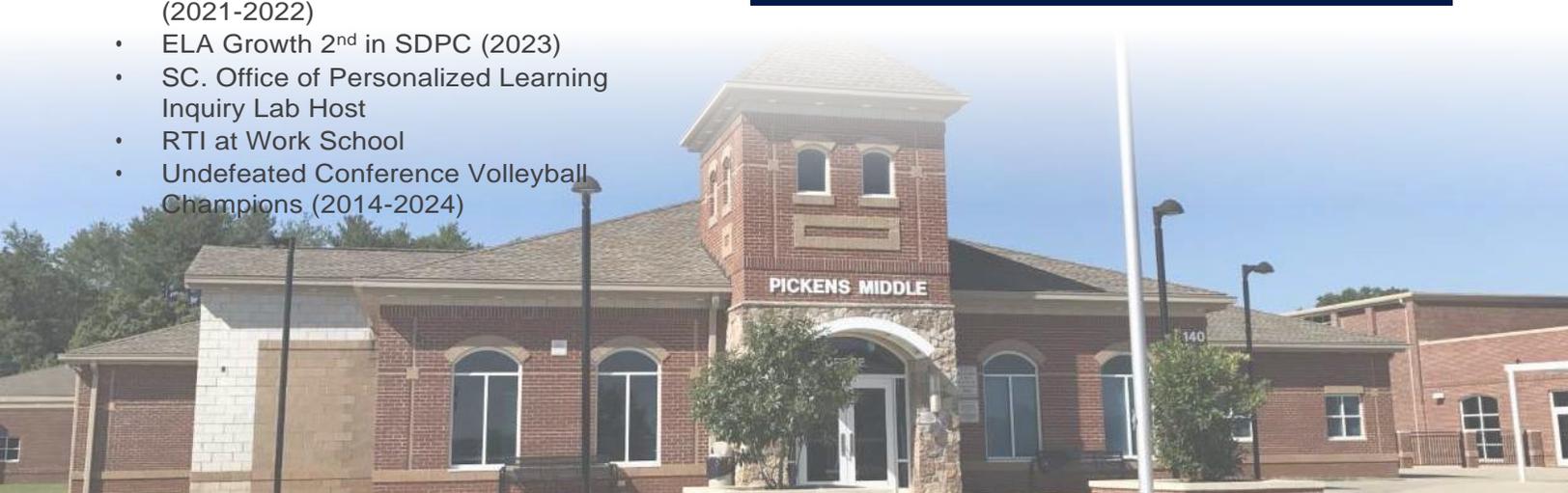
Student choice in electives, including:



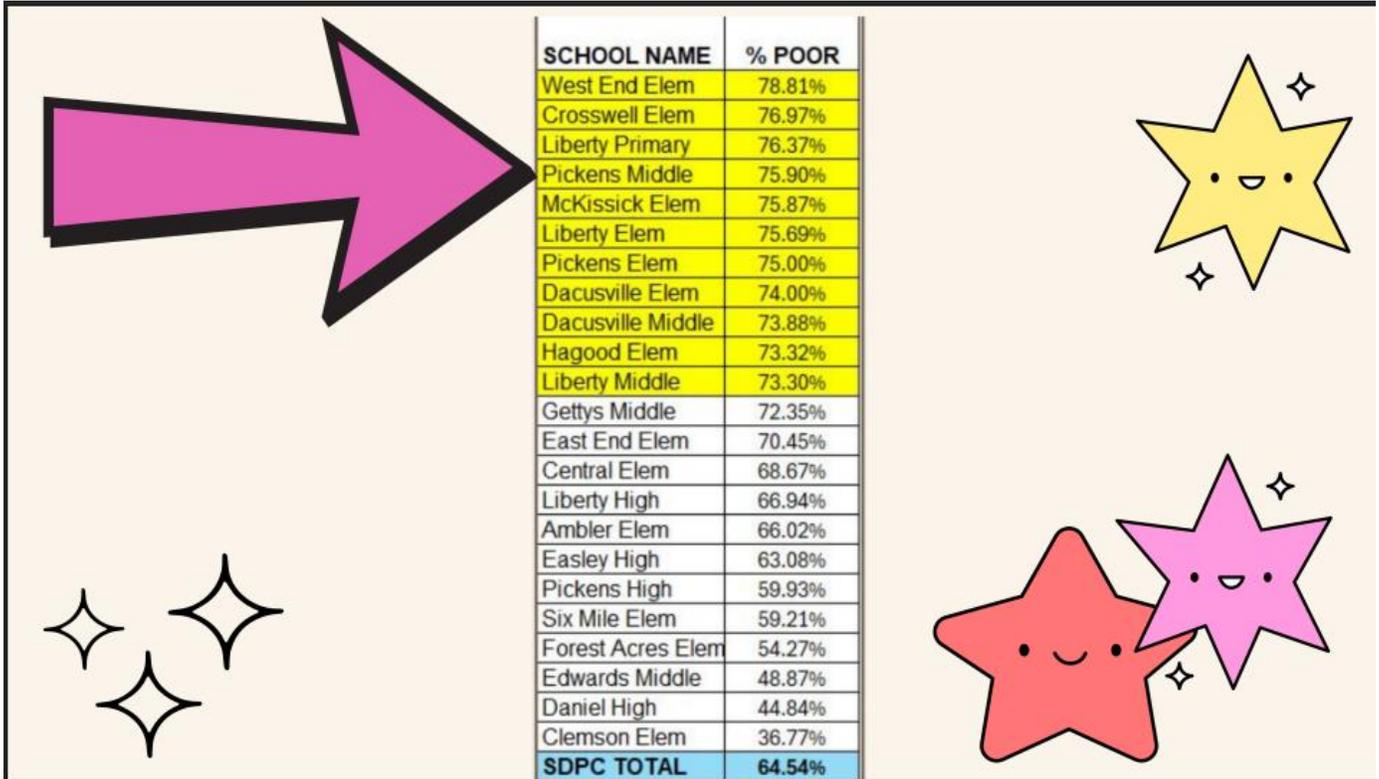
more options available than listed



Ongoing Intramural Competitions!
A different sport happens every nine weeks!



Our title one status is not exclusive of our overall strategic plan which not only emphasizes support for our students of poverty but reflects best practice for all students. The most recent data reflects pupils in poverty data which gives us a rank of fourth in the district.



Strategies in our school’s plan reflect the needs of all of our students. As outlined in our beliefs in the first page, student engagement in all three areas of the profile is our overarching mission to prepare students for college and/or career readiness.

As part of our feedback loop to increase community involvement provided data from families regarding our family nights and education opportunities for our community.



24-25 Survey Results Family Nights

Favorite Part of the Event:

- Food
- The math game
- Seeing the different clubs
- Meeting the teachers
- Time as a family
- Seeing my child enjoying school
- Watching the children with their friends

Suggestions:

- It was super fun!
- Keep it up!!
- Send more information about the event
- A healthy food choice



24-25 Survey Results Parent Workshops

Time of Day:

- Morning: 20%
- Afternoon: 20%
- Evening: 40%
- Anytime: 20%

Topics:

- Social Media
- Schoology
- Future Career Opportunities
- Mental Health



24-25 Survey Results Teacher/Staff

Parent Conferences:

- 63% said that parent conferences helped their relationship with the students and parents
- "I appreciate meeting parents because it helps me to understand the students better. When you meet them in person, it is easier to figure out the parent-child dynamic. It also helps you to see why the students might act a certain way."
- Multiple teachers reported needing more time to meet with parents.

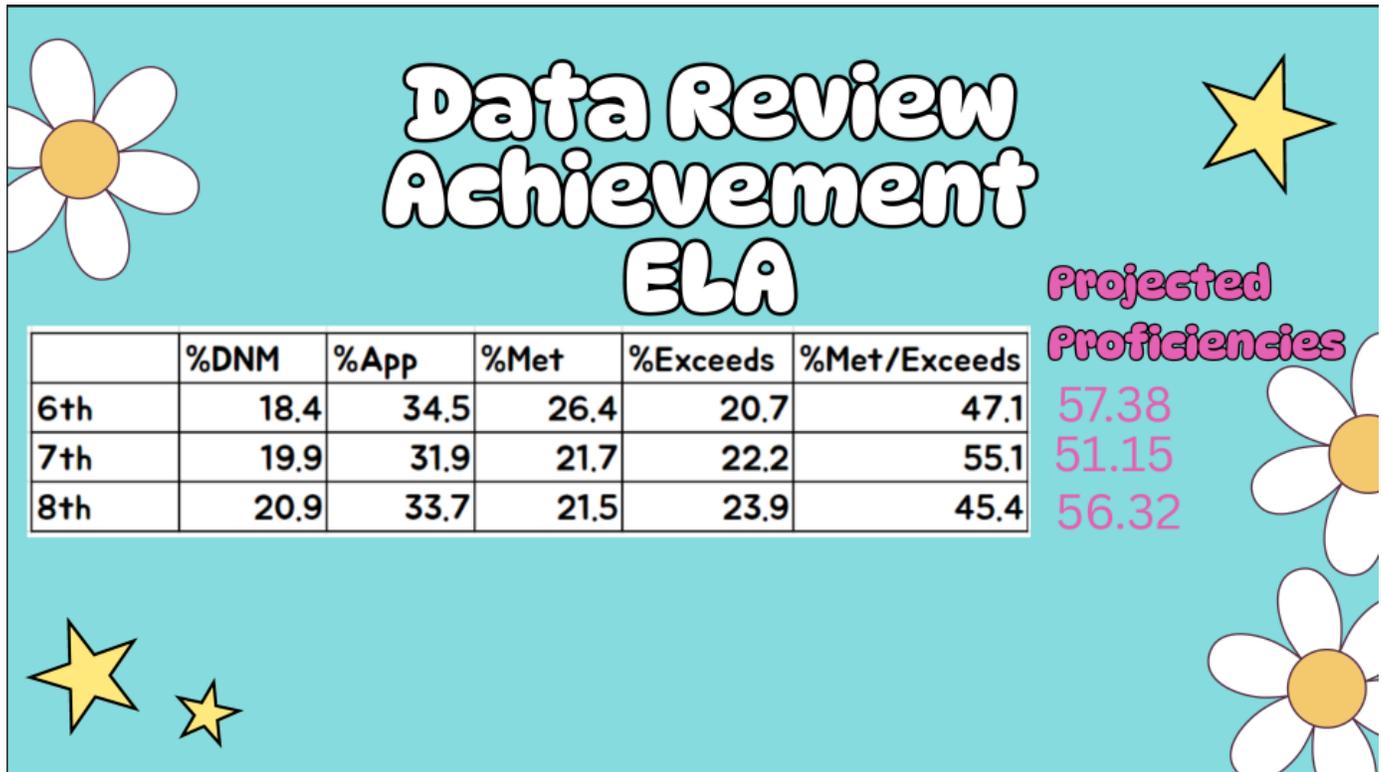


24-25 Survey Results Teacher/Staff

Family Nights:

- Game night with House Points, Jeopardy, Kahoot, Quizizz
- Old School Open House
- Family Arts and Crafts station/One Book One School
- "Escape Room" with family
- Family Folders were great but more marketing

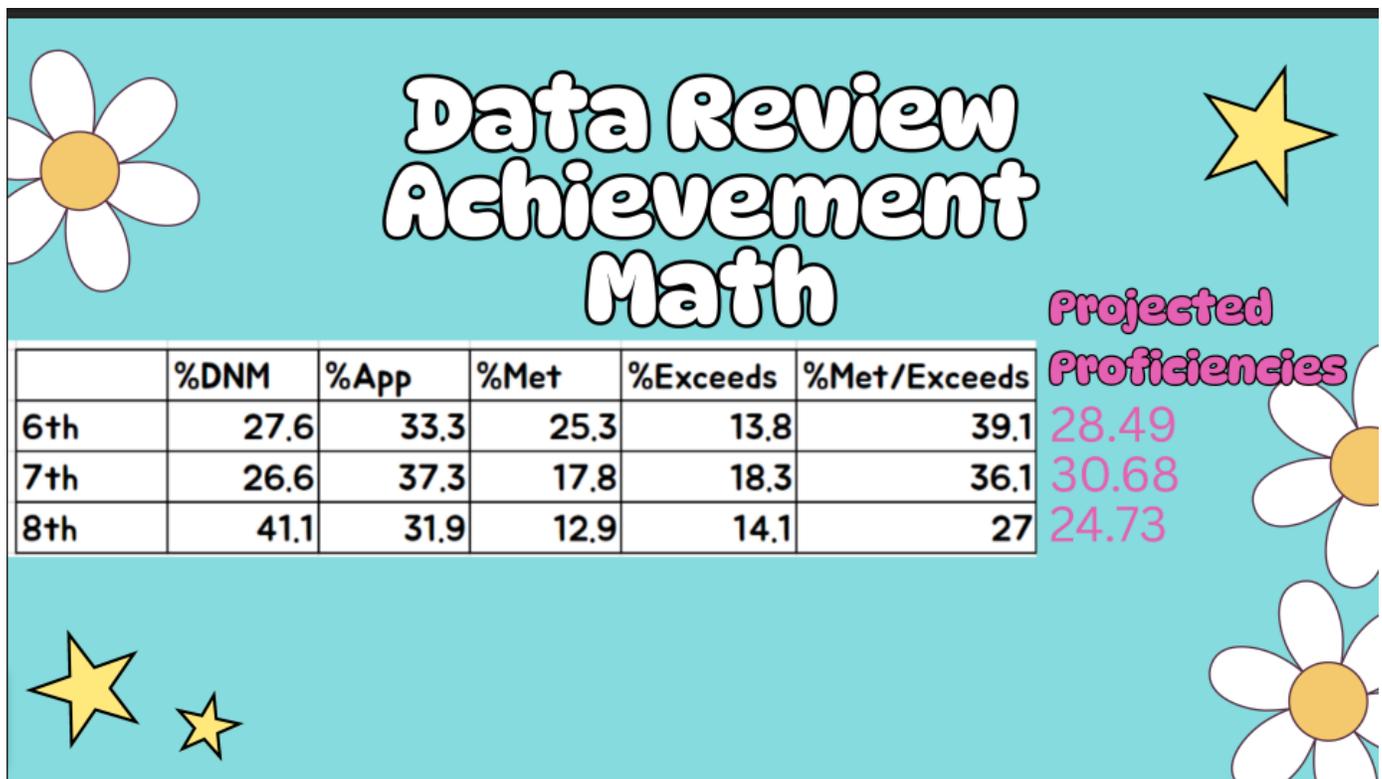
A commitment to increased student growth and achievement is essential to our students' success. The following slides illustrate current data which reflects our progress toward strategic goals which follow the data slides.



Data Review Achievement ELA

	%DNM	%App	%Met	%Exceeds	%Met/Exceeds
6th	18.4	34.5	26.4	20.7	47.1
7th	19.9	31.9	21.7	22.2	55.1
8th	20.9	33.7	21.5	23.9	45.4

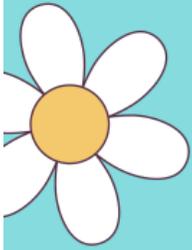
Projected Proficiencies
57.38
51.15
56.32



Data Review Achievement Math

	%DNM	%App	%Met	%Exceeds	%Met/Exceeds
6th	27.6	33.3	25.3	13.8	39.1
7th	26.6	37.3	17.8	18.3	36.1
8th	41.1	31.9	12.9	14.1	27

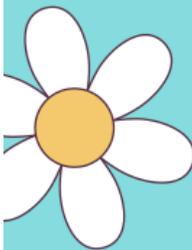
Projected Proficiencies
28.49
30.68
24.73



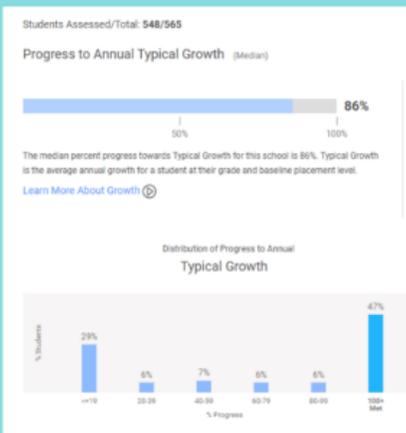
Data Review Growth ELA



Grade	Annual Typical Growth ⓘ		Annual Stretch Growth® ⓘ	
	Progress (Median) ⚙	% Met ⚙	Progress (Median) ⚙	% Met ⚙
Grade 6	121%	55%	48%	27%
Grade 7	197%	64%	68%	30%
Grade 8	167%	64%	54%	30%



Data Review Growth Math



Grade	Annual Typical Growth ⓘ		Annual Stretch Growth® ⓘ	
	Progress (Median) ⚙	% Met ⚙	Progress (Median) ⚙	% Met ⚙
Grade 6	79%	43%	37%	9%
Grade 7	92%	49%	45%	14%
Grade 8	100%	51%	40%	17%

Our strategic goals are created to reflect a response to gathered data points.

Strategic Plan Goal #1:

By 2027-2028, Pickens Middle will increase student proficiency numbers on SC Ready ELA from 40.2% to 60.9% and SC Ready Math from 36.2% to 55.1%.

Action Step #1 - The literacy team will analyze and implement strong Tier I strategies with foundation in the NIET 4.0 Rubric for use in grades 6-8 and the instructional leadership team and the guiding coalition will monitor their use through classroom observation and data collection.

Action Step #2 - Teachers will participate in daily PLC meetings to discuss student achievement and effective strategies for closing learning gaps. This includes data tracking from common formative assessments and planning great Tier I strategies.

Action Step #3 - Pickens Middle will continue to implement a designated RTI time two to three times each week to provide Tier 2 intervention for students.

Action Step #4 - Pickens Middle will use more consistent benchmarking and monitoring of student progress using mastery connect with daily masteryconnect questions, quarterly benchmarking, and analyzation of the quarterly results by the school and district. Pickens Middle will also use IReady to benchmark.



Strategic Plan Goal #2:

By 2027-2028, Pickens Middle School will increase the teacher retention rate from 80.5% to 89.4% by increasing 1.5% each year.

Action Step #1 - Pickens Middle will use more consistent benchmarking and monitoring of student progress using mastery connect with daily masteryconnect questions, quarterly benchmarking, and analyzation of the quarterly results by the school and district. Pickens Middle will also use IReady to benchmark.

Action Step #2 - Teachers will participate in daily PLC meetings to discuss student achievement and effective strategies for closing learning gaps. This includes data tracking from common formative assessments and planning great Tier I strategies.

Action Step #3 - Pickens Middle will continue to implement a designated RTI time two to three times each week to provide Tier 2 intervention for students identified through common formative assessment.

Action Step #4 - Pickens Middle School's Instructional Leadership Team will use the NIET 4.0 Rubric to monitor and evaluate Tier 1 instruction. The district will also provide co-teaching opportunities with the math specialist.

Strategic Plan Goal #3 -

By 2027-2028, Pickens Middle School will increase the Overall Perceptions of School Climate from 6.41 out of 10 to 8 out of 10 according to the Department of Education Survey.

Action Step #1 – Continue to use the **Guiding Coalition, Professional Learning Community and School Improvement Council** to conduct ongoing root cause analysis for areas of dissatisfaction with the climate and create an action plan to address current areas of weakness.

Action Step #2 - Increase communications with all school stakeholders regarding needs and improvement strategies. This will provide awareness and opportunity for input.

Action Step #3 – Provide opportunities for greater stakeholder involvement in our school through PTO, SIC, Title I Parent Engagement Opportunities, and The Amazing Shake.

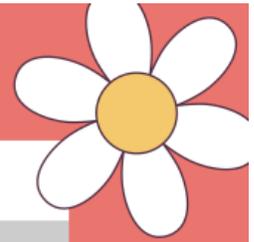
Strategic Plan Goal #4:

By the 2027-2028 School Year, Pickens Middle School will increase the overall achievement of our students identified as having an IEP on SC READY scoring approaches, met, and above from 21.3% to 36.3%. (ELA - 52.7% in 2024) (Math - 35.5% in 2024).

Action Step #1 – Use the I-Ready data tracker to ensure that **ALL** students are achieving **ON** grade level mastery for identified essential standards.

Action Step #2 – Within the professional learning community, utilize flex time for Tier II intervention with our IEP students and academic support class for identified Tier III needs.

Action Step #3 – Use professional development and the school's shared commitments to ensure that students are grouped based on performance and not perceived ability.



DISTRICT: PICKENS COUNTY SCHOOLS | SCHOOL: PICKENS MIDDLE SCHOOL

Elected Members

	Last Name	First Name	Title
1.	Brezeale	Brett	Teacher
2.	Hunter	Erin	Teacher
3.	Norris	Megan	Parent
4.	Robinson	Betty	Parent

Appointed Members

	Last Name	First Name	Title
1.	Moody	Tracy	Community Member (Chair)
2.	Smith	Nick	Community Member

Ex-officio Members

	Last Name	First Name	Title
1.	King	James	Principal