

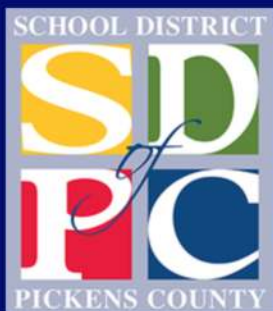
School Improvement Council's

REPORT TO THE COMMUNITY

2025



2026





Annual Report to Parents

2025- 2026 SIC MEMBERS

Caroline Smith- *Chair*
Hannah Smith- *Vice Chair*
Dr. Ashley Butler-*Secretary*
Ivey Stone-*Student*
Sean Bagwell-*Student*
Adelyn Jewell-*Student*
Tracy Moody-*Parent*
Dr. Kathy Brazinski- *Community Partner*
Kim Clevenger-*Community Partner*
Dr. Betty McDaniel-*Community Partner*
Chad Smith-*Parent*
Nath Briley- *Parent*
Lauren Corn-*Principal*

As we close out the 2025-2026 school year, I'm delighted to share the progress we've made at Pickens High School. From academic growth to community partnerships, this year has reflected our shared commitment to student success and continuous improvement.

Our SIC has focused on expanding membership, encouraging student involvement in the Pickens community, strengthening communication with current and prospective families, and supporting college and career readiness. This report highlights key achievements, celebrates our students and staff, and outlines plans for continued progress.

Thank you for your continued support of PHS!

-Dr. Ashley Butler

At Pickens High School, we are proud to be TRUE BLUE—a guiding philosophy that shapes the way we learn, lead, and grow together.



- Believe in yourself and the power of education to change lives.
- Learn every day.
- Unite as a community of students, families, educators, and partners.
- Excel in academics, character, and service.

ROLE & MISSION OF SIC

In South Carolina, a School Improvement Council is an advisory council to the principal and school on issues related to school improvement. By law, every K-12 public school in South Carolina must have an SIC that is made up of parent, teacher, student (grades 9-12), and community member representatives.

The mission of the PHS SIC is to partner **parents, students, and community members** with the school's **administration and teachers** to achieve results that better the education and educational environment of the school.



SIC GOALS & PROGRESS

Goal 1: Demonstrate growth in the number of SIC members and meeting participants

Goal 2: Increase partnerships & involvement of PHS students in the community

Goal 3: Improve communication with current and prospective families

Goal 4: Continue to improve literacy skills and college and career readiness of PHS students

Literacy Rates

- 76% on English II EOC (an increase of 6.3% from 2024)

College & Career Readiness

- 83.5% of students considered career ready
- 400+ students took WIN test
- 152 seniors completed a CTE pathway
- All non-diploma track students earn WBL through vocational training.
- 300+ students enrolled in CTE programs at Career Center
- 120 juniors/seniors attended at least one tour
 - School visited: USC Columbia, Clemson, Anderson, USC Upstate SWU, NGU, Greenville Tech, Tri-County Tech
- Work-Based Learning Partnerships
 - Dream Center, Pickens Rec, Pizza Inn, Blue Ridge Electric, Cannon Hospital, Pickens PD, SDPC, Honey Hills Cattery, Ingles, YMCA
- 13 AP Courses offered at PHS
- 180 students attending 2 or 4 year college in the fall
- 11 pursuing the military
- 210 seniors qualified for LIFE scholarship and 14 Palmetto Fellows
- \$11,683,300 scholarships awarded



TORCHY'S
FIRESIDE GRILL



Communication & Community Engagement

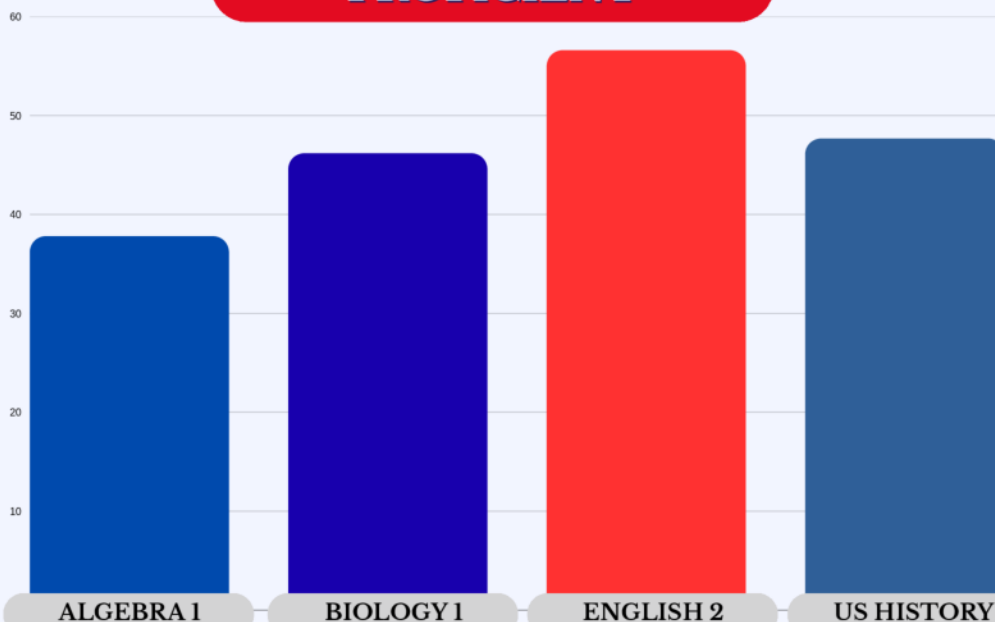
- School social media sites, newsletters, and regular Schoology messages
- Torchy's Fireside Grill opened and served 78 lunches.
- Developed partnerships with feeder schools, community organizations, Special Olympics, and others





TRUE BLUE ACADEMICS

2025 EOC PERCENT PROFICIENT



**Graduation
Rate
87.9%
(highest in
school
history)**

College Readiness Assessment Averages

SAT: 1033

ACT: 19

AP Courses

*Percent of exams with
passing scores (3 or higher):
55.3%*

*# of students taking
AP exams: 147*

AP course offerings:

English- AP Language,
AP Literature

History- AP US History,
AP Government,
AP Macroeconomics,
AP Psychology

Math- AP Calculus, AP Stats

Science- AP Biology, AP
Chemistry

World Languages- AP Spanish

Fine Arts- AP Art

TRUE BLUE HIGHLIGHTS

Festival of the Flame



Community Connections

Veterans Day Servers



StuCo at Pickens Christmas Parade (left) and SCASC convention (right)



THE OPEN BOOK PROJECT
PICKENS HIGH SCHOOL \$ 450.00
Four hundred Ring - 100 DOLLARS
MEMBERSHIP Fee of \$100
CDD 434653 - 746756-33743-0243

The Open Book Project sponsored PGS delegates



Unified Christmas

Special Olympics at SWU



True BLUE
Sponsored by ADK
Nu Chapter



Rotary Club sponsored
2 students
at RYLA

Blue Flame Greeters



WINTER STORM SHELTER & WARMING & AID STATION

Winter Storm Shelter
Pickens High School Gym
Opening at 5:00 PM

- Cots Provided
- Bathrooms & Showers Available

Warming & Aid Station
City Hall
Opening at 3:00 PM

- Bathrooms Available
- Showers Available

TRANSPORTATION AVAILABLE

Only service animals allowed with owner; other pets must be crated.

PORTABLE OXYGEN USERS WELCOME

More Info: cityofpickens.com

City of Pickens

TRUE BLUE ATHLETICS



Mascot: Blue Flame

Colors: Blue & White

Region: 2 AAAA

Men's Sports

Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Soccer, Track & Field, Tennis, Wrestling

Women's Sports

Basketball, Cheer, Cross Country, Golf, Soccer, Softball, Track & Field, Tennis, Volleyball



'25-'26 Team Accomplishments

- Volleyball-Repeat 4A State Champions
- Football-Made the playoffs
- Girls' Golf-Competed in State
- Girls' Tennis- 3rd round of playoffs
- Boys' XC- Top 10 in the State.
- Girls' XC- competed in State
- Boys' Basketball- Most region wins in a decade.
- Girls' Basketball-Made playoffs
- Wrestling-Made playoffs
- Boys' Golf-Playing in Upper State in May
- Boys' Tennis, Girls Soccer, and baseball- Made playoffs
- Girls' and Boys' Track- 5 qualified for State in May

Individual Accomplishments

- Lily Clarkson-Volleyball 4A POY
- Lily Clarkson and Chesney Yates- Volleyball North/South All Stars
- Charlee Blankenship-Tennis North/South All Star
- Chris Aguirre-Wrestling 2nd in State, North/South All Star



'25-'26 COMMITTED

Lily Clarkson-
Southern Wesleyan
University, volleyball
Chesney Yates- North
Greenville University,
volleyball
Emerson McCall,
Furman University, track
and field
Xander Moody, Lenoir-
Rhyne, soccer



Ten PHS seniors have
committed to pursue careers
in teaching and participated
in SDPC's Educator Signing
Day.