
*We are One Hand, One
Voice, Serving Every
Scholar, Every day.*



2025-2026 SIC REPORT TO FAMILIES

Hand Middle School

2600 Wheat Street
Columbia, SC 29205

Contact Us

[Link to Website](#)

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School Improvement Council:

Lilla Toal Mandsager, Chair
Erica Estrada, Vice Chair
Robert Hock, Secretary

Jashandeep Sidhu
Krista Jones
Yolanda Smith

Eric Powell
Justin Workman
Brad Tillman

Shandon Cluster of Churches Members:

Barbara Code, Chair

Bethel AME

Bible Way

Incarnation Lutheran Church

Shandon Baptist

Shandon Presbyterian

Shandon United Methodist Church

St. John's Episcopal Church

St. Joseph's Catholic Church

Revealing Word Ministries

Language Immersion (Chinese & Spanish)

*Growing cohorts of both Immersion Programs

Clubs & Activities:

Basketball
Cheerleading
Football
Mock Trial
NJHS
Track
Volleyball
Wrestling

Queen Hornets
Math Counts
Men of NuVision
scholar Council
Quiz Bowl
Yearbook
Peer Tutoring
Unified Champions

SCHOOL DEMOGRAPHICS

Total Enrollment: 775

52.1% African American

31.1% White

11.7% Hispanic/Latino

4.0% Multi-Racial

< 1% Asian

< 1% Native Hawaiian /Pacific
Islander

5% of scholars are considered ML

14% of scholars are SPED/504

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & SPECIAL PROGRAMS

- DHS Cluster, Fall Into the Blues
- 6th grade campus tours
- Open House
- Harvest Hope Volunteers
- Hand Hornets Helping Serve Columbia
- Weekend Backpack Program
- Parent Universities
- Jazz Band collaboration with Dreher
- NJROTC community engagement
- University of SC tutoring support
- Shandon Cluster of churches
- Walk for life
- March of Dimes
- Performing Arts 5th grade connections
- ArtBlooms, School & Community Partnership

Goal Data:

% Meets & Exceeds	22-23	23-24	24-25	State Ave 2024-25
SC Ready ELA	50%	52%	57%	60%
SC Ready Math	31%	32%	33%	45%
SC Ready Science	36%	N/A	39%	50%
1 year teacher retention rate	66%	84%	81%	92%

About this Report: The School Improvement Council (SIC) of Hand Middle School has prepared the annual school report for you, your family, and the Hand Middle School community. The SIC serves as an advisory body that brings together parents, educators, and community members to support, monitor, and provide input on the school's improvement efforts to enhance scholar achievement and school climate. If you have any questions about the information summarized here, please contact Dr. Patrice T. Green, Principal, or Ms. Lilla Toal Mandsager, SIC Chair at (803) 343-2947.

School-Wide Designations:

- Arts in Basic Curriculum (ABC) Redesignation
- R1 Language Immersion Program
- National Healthy School
- National School To Watch
- USC Professional Development School
- Unified Champion School

Department/scholar Awards

Principal's List (All As) & Academic Achievement (3.5 GPA/higher):

6GR- 39%
7GR - 40%
8GR - 42%

R1 Middle School Scholars:

41 scholars - 8GR 3.5/higher GPA, 6GR-8GR
Honors and/or GT courses
Extra-curricular involvement
MLK Dream Keeper Essay Contest Winner

National Junior Honor Society:

65 scholars - 8GR (cumulative 3.5/higher GPA
7GR-8GR
Characteristics: Scholarship, Service, Leadership
Character & Citizenship

USC Regional Science Fair:

16 scholars - USC Regional Science Fair Award
3 scholars - Dr. Gary Allen Excellence in Scientific Communication award



Department/scholar Awards:

Art:

1 scholar - District Art Show Reagan McAndrews \$200-
Scholarship Recipient
1 scholar - Best In Show ~ SC State Fair 2D: Middle
School Division
1 scholar - 1st Place ~ SC State Fair
2D: Middle School Division

Band:

33 scholars -R1 Honors Band
10 scholars -R1 Honors Jazz Band
9 scholars - SCBDA Regional Honors Band
1 scholar - SCBDA All State Honor Band
13 scholars scored Superior - SCBDA Solo and Ensemble
3 scholar scored Excellent - SCBDA Solo and Ensemble
SCBDA Concert Performance Assessment of Excellent
SCBDA CPA Sight Reading Superior Rating
SCBDA Outstanding Performance Award (3rd Year in a Row)



Department/scholar Awards:

Basketball:

Girls - RSD1 Runner Up

Football:

RSD1 Champions

Track & Field:

6GR Girls - R1 2nd Place

6GR Boys - R1 District Champions

7GR/8GR Boys - R1 2nd Place

7GR/8GR Girls - R1 3rd Place

Volleyball

R1 3rd Place



Choir:

4 scholars - District Honor Choir

Dance:

3 scholars - District Honor Dance Company

Orchestra:

32 scholars - RSD1 Honors

5 scholars - SCMEA Midlands Region

1 scholar - SCMEA All State

10 Solo/Ensemble Superior Awards

Theatre:

10 scholars - R1 Theatre Festival
Inaugural Playwrights' Festival



SIC Focus Areas from Hand's School Renewal Plan

- By 2029, 40% of scholars in grades 6-8 will score meets/exceeds on the **SC Ready Math** assessment.
- By 2029, 50% of scholars in grade 6 will score meets/exceeds on the **SC Ready Science** assessment.
- By 2029, Hand will sustain **teacher retention** to an average of 85%.
- By 2029, 80% of **Hand families participate in school activities** as measured by post-attendance surveys.

SIC Activities

SIC Meetings occur every 4th Thursday.

All are welcome to join using links in The Buzz. Meeting agendas and notes can be found on our website.

Elections for 2026-27 officer positions will be held in August.

This year's SIC focused on better understanding progress toward Hand's School Renewal goals in math, science, teacher retention, and family engagement. In all focus areas, Hand is making positive progress toward 2029 goals. For **academics**, Hand partnered this year with Richland One's teaching and learning team to intentionally focus on teachers planning together in order to increase teacher collaboration and engagement. For teacher retention, we partner with wonderful community organizations—Palmetto Citizens, the PTO, the Shandon Cluster of Churches, and Walmart—who provide teachers with resources, tokens of appreciation, and rewards for stellar attendance. Additionally, our faculty-staff led Sunshine Committee promotes engagement, fellowship, and recognition while fostering collegiality, collaboration, and support that creates a conducive teaching and learning environment for everyone. For **family engagement**, the SIC reviewed data from event attendance, parent communications, and a parent survey. More than 90% of families open Talking Points messages. For spring, the SIC targeted increasing participation in the spring parent climate survey.





At Hand, we are forward focused, building future-ready scholars. And we are committed to excellence in our five A's: academics, arts, athletics, attendance and attitude. We do this by having high expectations and ensuring that our scholars promote Hornet P.R.I.D.E.
*- **P**ersonal Responsibility, **R**espect, **I**ndividual Readiness, **D**emonstrated Learning and **E**ffective Behaviors.*

Richland School District One does not discriminate on the basis of race, religion, color, handicap, sex, age, lineage, or national origin in its programs or activities.

