



# South Carolina State Report Card

State and federal laws require public schools to release report cards to the public each year. This year, the report card has been updated to reflect changes in reporting directed by the SC Education Oversight Committee. Schools will not be rated for state accountability purposes until Fall 2017 when the state will transition to a single accountability system. The following reports student performance in school year 2014-15.

|                        |                                                         |                        |               |
|------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|---------------|
| <b>Grades:</b>         | 6-8 Middle                                              | <b>Principal:</b>      | Thad Schmenk  |
| <b>Enrollment:</b>     | 872 students                                            | <b>Superintendent:</b> | Joseph R. Pye |
| <b>School Phone:</b>   | 843-873-3890                                            | <b>Board Chair:</b>    | Gail Hughes   |
| <b>School Website:</b> | <a href="http://ams.ddtwo.org">http://ams.ddtwo.org</a> |                        |               |



## Profile of the SC Graduate

### World Class Knowledge

- Rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness
- Multiple languages, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), arts and social sciences\*

### World Class Skills

- Creativity and innovation
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Communication, information, media and technology
- Knowing how to learn

### Life and Career Characteristics

- Integrity
- Self-direction
- Global perspective
- Perseverance
- Work ethic
- Interpersonal skills

\* 21st Century core courses in Social Sciences include History, Geography, Economics, Government and Civics.

## WORLD CLASS SKILLS & LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

*Our school is helping all students develop the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the Graduate by ...*

Alston Middle School is proud of the diversity of our programs, the quality of our teachers, and the participation of our parents and community members. The support of our families, students, and community is essential to our success. AMS is prepared to take on the challenges of a new state testing system and new state standards. We embrace the need to expand our curriculum and structure to prepare students to be college and career ready and provide them with knowledge, skills, and personal traits needed to be successful in the 21st century.

Our staff and stakeholders concentrated on creating and expanding instructional programs to help students obtain world-class knowledge. Enrollment in rigorous courses (Algebra, Geometry, and English) reached record levels. Stakeholders partnered with AMS to increase opportunities for students to develop science, technology, and mathematics skills. For example, Boeing and the University of South Carolina enhanced our pre-engineering program by purchasing computers and 3-D printers for classes.

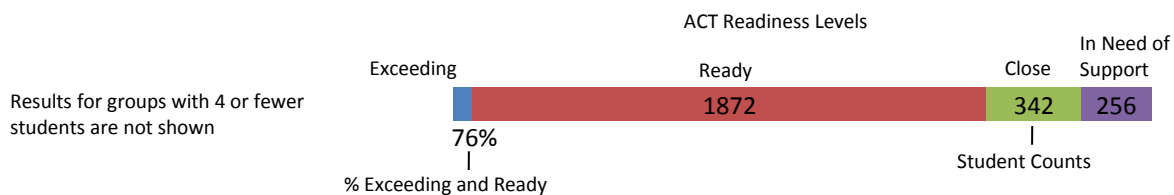
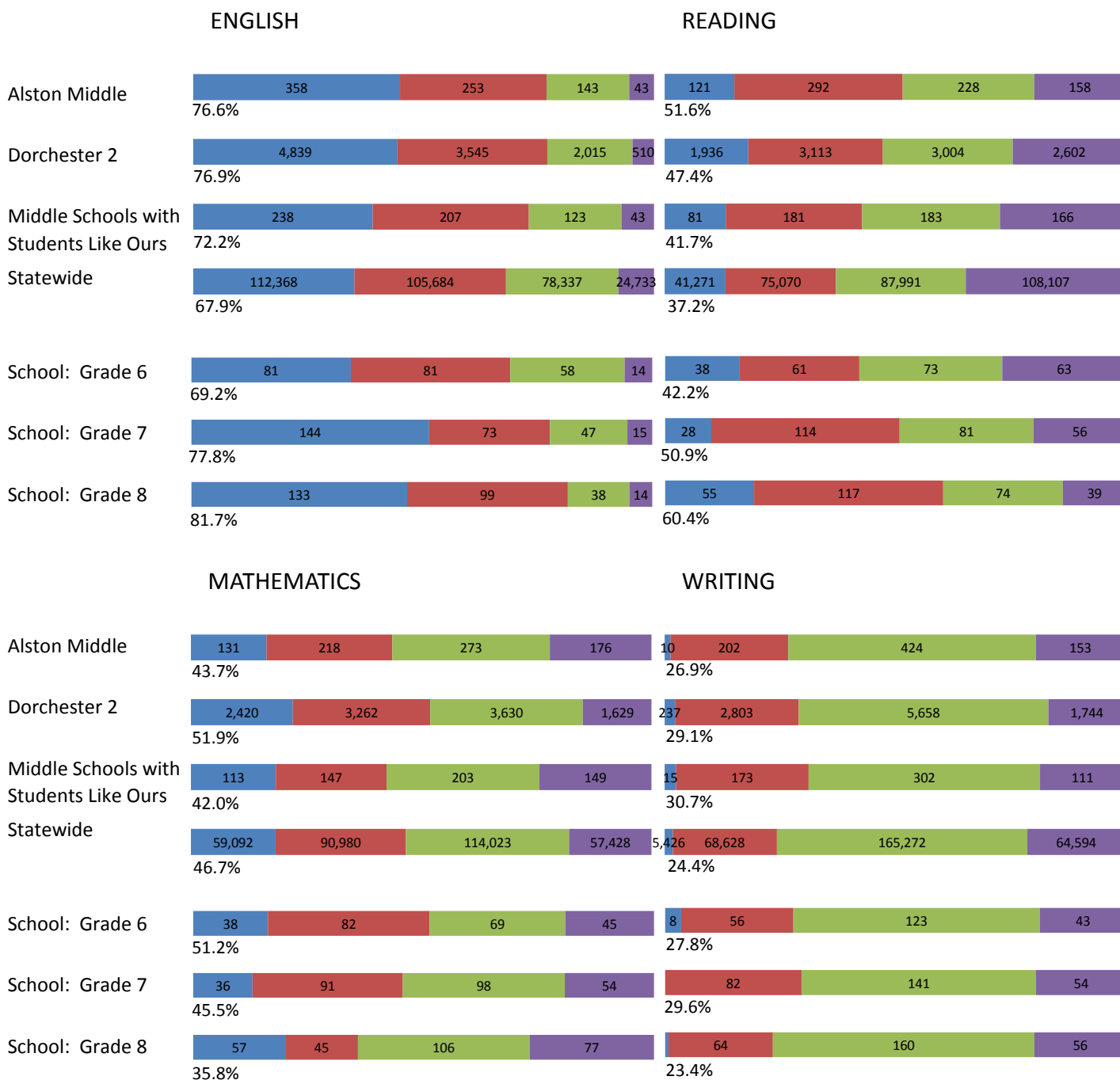
Staff and school partners helped students obtain the world class skills necessary to compete globally. Students were challenged to work collaboratively in their fine art courses to create and perform in fine art events including a school musical. Students used teamwork skills in various athletic activities and competitions. They competed academically in the First Lego League, Quest, and Dimension U contests. They also enhanced their communication skills through participation in WAMS morning show, our SIC committee, and our Tiger Pride committee.

In addition, students, staff, and counselors focused on developing important life and career characteristics. Students developed a sense of self-direction through Individualized Graduation Plan meetings with counselors. They took career interest inventories using SCOIS software and attended presentations by a variety of career speakers. Our Tiger Time mentoring program scheduled field trips to local colleges and industries. Staff also helped students gain a global perspective through our International Coffee Hour and German Teacher Exchange programs.

We congratulate faculty, students, parents, coaches, and business partners for an outstanding year. Our SC Absolute Rating of Excellent, our 1st MUSC/Boeing Wellness award, our 3rd place finish at Quest, and our numerous Fine Art and athletic achievements attest to our stakeholders' commitment to excellence.

**KNOWLEDGE**

The ACT Aspire assessment was given to students in grades 3-8 in Spring 2015. Students were assessed in the subject areas of Reading, English, Mathematics and Writing



## Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A-Not Applicable

N/AV-Not Available

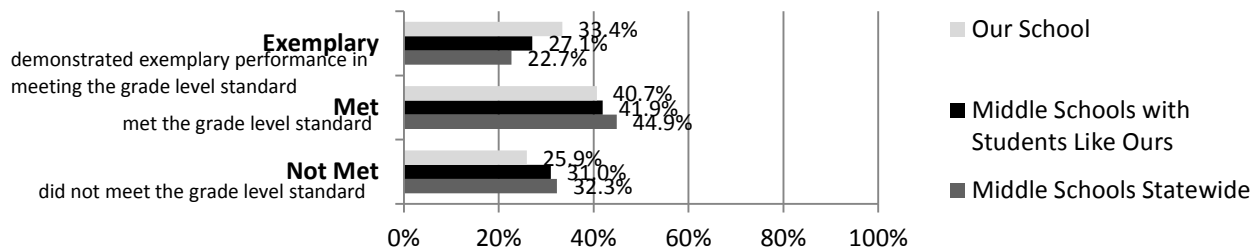
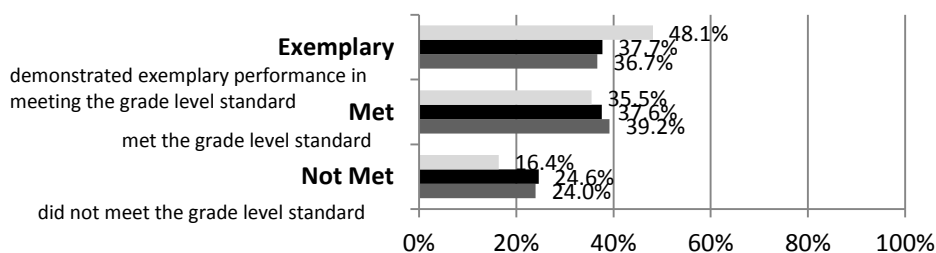
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I/S-Insufficient Sample

**KNOWLEDGE**

The SC Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SCPASS) was given to students in grades 4 - 8 in Spring 2015. Students were assessed in the subject areas of Science and Social Studies.

**Science****Social Studies****Science SCPASS**

Our School: Percent Met and Above for each grade level

| 6th grade | 7th grade | 8th grade |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 63.0      | 75.3      | 82.1      |

**Social Studies SCPASS**

Our School: Percent Met and Above for each grade level

| 6th grade | 7th grade | 8th grade |
|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 80.7      | 81.0      | 88.7      |

Note: Results include SC-Alt assessment results.

Exemplary

**"Exemplary"**: student demonstrated exemplary performance in meeting the grade level standard.

Met

**"Met"**: student met the grade level standard.

Not Met

**"Not Met"**: student did not meet the grade level standard.

**End of Course Tests**

| Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on: | Our School | Middle Schools with Students Like Ours |
|-------------------------------------------------|------------|----------------------------------------|
| Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2           | 100.0      | 97.5                                   |
| English 1                                       | 100        | 94.4                                   |
| Biology 1                                       | N/A        | 73.0                                   |
| US History and the Constitution                 | N/A        | 60.3                                   |
| All Subjects                                    | 100.0      | 96.5                                   |

Middle Schools with Students Like Ours are middle schools with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for the school.

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**OPPORTUNITIES**

|                                                                                                                     | Our School | Change from Last Year | Middle Schools with students like ours |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------------|
| <b>Students (n = 872)</b>                                                                                           |            |                       |                                        |
| Percent of students participating in Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF; homeless, foster, or migrant students (poverty index) | 63.3       | Down from 68.2%       | N/A                                    |
| Percent of students (grade 7 & 8) enrolled in HS credit courses                                                     | 55.5       | Up from 38.5%         | 27.7                                   |
| Attendance Rate                                                                                                     | 95.9       | Down from 96.9%       | 95.7                                   |
| With disabilities                                                                                                   | 12.2       | Up from 11.4%         | 12.4                                   |
| Out of school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses                                        | 3.2        | Down from 3.7%        | 0.6                                    |
| Percentage of students served by gifted and talented programs                                                       | 20.1       | Down from 20.5%       | 23.8                                   |
| Percentage of students retained                                                                                     | 0.8        | Down from 0.9%        | 0.6                                    |
| Annual dropout rate                                                                                                 | 0.0        | No change             | 0.0                                    |
| <b>Teachers (n = 55)</b>                                                                                            |            |                       |                                        |
| Percentage of teachers with advanced degrees                                                                        | 54.5       | Up from 53.7%         | 62.8                                   |
| Percentage of teachers on continuing contract                                                                       | 74.5       | Up from 72.2%         | 78.0                                   |
| Teachers returning from previous year                                                                               | 82.3       | Up from 80.8%         | 86.2                                   |
| Teacher attendance rate                                                                                             | 91.4       | Down from 93.8%       | 94.9                                   |
| Average teacher salary*                                                                                             | \$45,149   | Up 2.8%               | \$47,360                               |
| Professional development days / teacher                                                                             | 9.2 days   | Down from 12.8 days   | 11.3 days                              |
| Percentage of teacher vacancies for more than 9 weeks                                                               | 0.0        | N/A                   | 0.3                                    |
| <b>School</b>                                                                                                       |            |                       |                                        |
| Principal's years at school                                                                                         | 4.0        | Up from 3.0           | 4.0                                    |
| Student-teacher ratio in core subjects                                                                              | 23.3 to 1  | Down from 24.0 to 1   | 23.3 to 1                              |
| Prime instructional time                                                                                            | 85.6       | Down from 88.4%       | 88.9                                   |
| Opportunities in the arts                                                                                           | Excellent  | No change             | Good                                   |
| Opportunities in foreign languages                                                                                  | Poor       | N/A                   | Poor                                   |
| AdvancEd (SACS) accreditation                                                                                       | Yes        | No change             | Yes                                    |
| Parents attending conferences                                                                                       | 89.1       | Down from 94.4%       | 99.7                                   |
| Character development program                                                                                       | Fair       | Down from Good        | Excellent                              |
| Avg. age of books / electronic media in the school library                                                          | 12.0       | N/A                   | 13.9                                   |
| Number of resources available per student in the school library media center                                        | 16.3       | N/A                   | 19.2                                   |
| Bandwidth capacity per student                                                                                      | <25 Mbps   | N/C                   | N/A                                    |
| Percent of classrooms with wireless access                                                                          | 76-100%    | N/C                   | N/A                                    |
| District-issued learning devices per student                                                                        | 0.3        | N/C                   | 0.7                                    |
| District-issued technology devices per teacher                                                                      | 1.8        | N/C                   | 1.8                                    |
| Percentage of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers                                                       | 1.1        | Down from 1.6%        | 2.1                                    |
| Dollars spent per pupil**                                                                                           | \$6,811    | Up 6.9%               | \$7,428                                |
| Percent of expenditures for instruction**                                                                           | 55.7       | Up from 55.5%         | 61.9                                   |
| Percent of expenditures for teachers' salaries**                                                                    | 57.0       | Up from 55.9%         | 63.8                                   |

\* Includes current year teachers contracted for 190 days or more.

\*\* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

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**OPPORTUNITIES****Evaluations by Teachers, Students, and Parents****Evaluations by Teachers, Students, and Parents**

|                                                        | <b>Teachers</b> | <b>Students*</b> | <b>Parents*</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Number of surveys returned                             | 61              | 241              | 20              |
| Percent satisfied with learning environment            | 85.2            | 73.9             | 85.0            |
| Percent satisfied with social and physical environment | 86.9            | 67.5             | 90.0            |
| Percent satisfied with school-home relations           | 86.9            | 87.2             | 55.0            |

\* Only students at the highest middle school grade and their parents were included.

**State Ratings History of School**

| <b>Year</b> | <b>Absolute Rating</b> | <b>Growth Rating</b> |
|-------------|------------------------|----------------------|
| 2014        | Excellent              | Average              |
| 2013        | Good                   | Average              |
| 2012        | Good                   | Excellent            |

Based on state law, schools will not be rated for state accountability purposes until Fall 2017.

**Additional Resources**

SC State Content Standards  
[Family-Friendly Guides to the SC Content Standards](#)  
[2014-15 Accountability Manual](#)  
[Report Card Data Files](#)  
[ESEA Data Files](#)

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