

Sandhills Middle School

582 Meadowfield Road

Gaston, SC 29053



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.

Grades:	7-8 Middle	Principal:	Justin Nutter
Enrollment:	448 students	Superintendent:	Linda G. Lavender, Ph.D
School Phone:	803-490-7005	Board Chair:	Daniel Martin
School Website:	http://sms.lexington4.net/		



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

WORLD CLASS SKILLS & LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

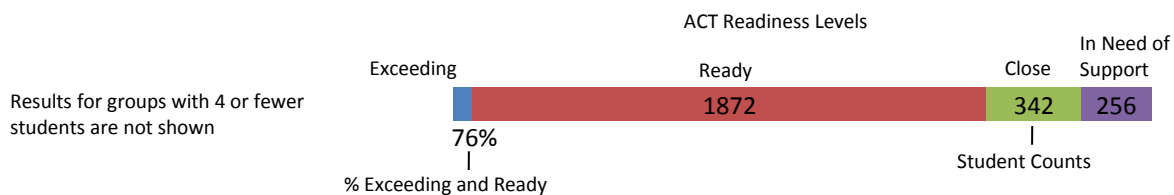
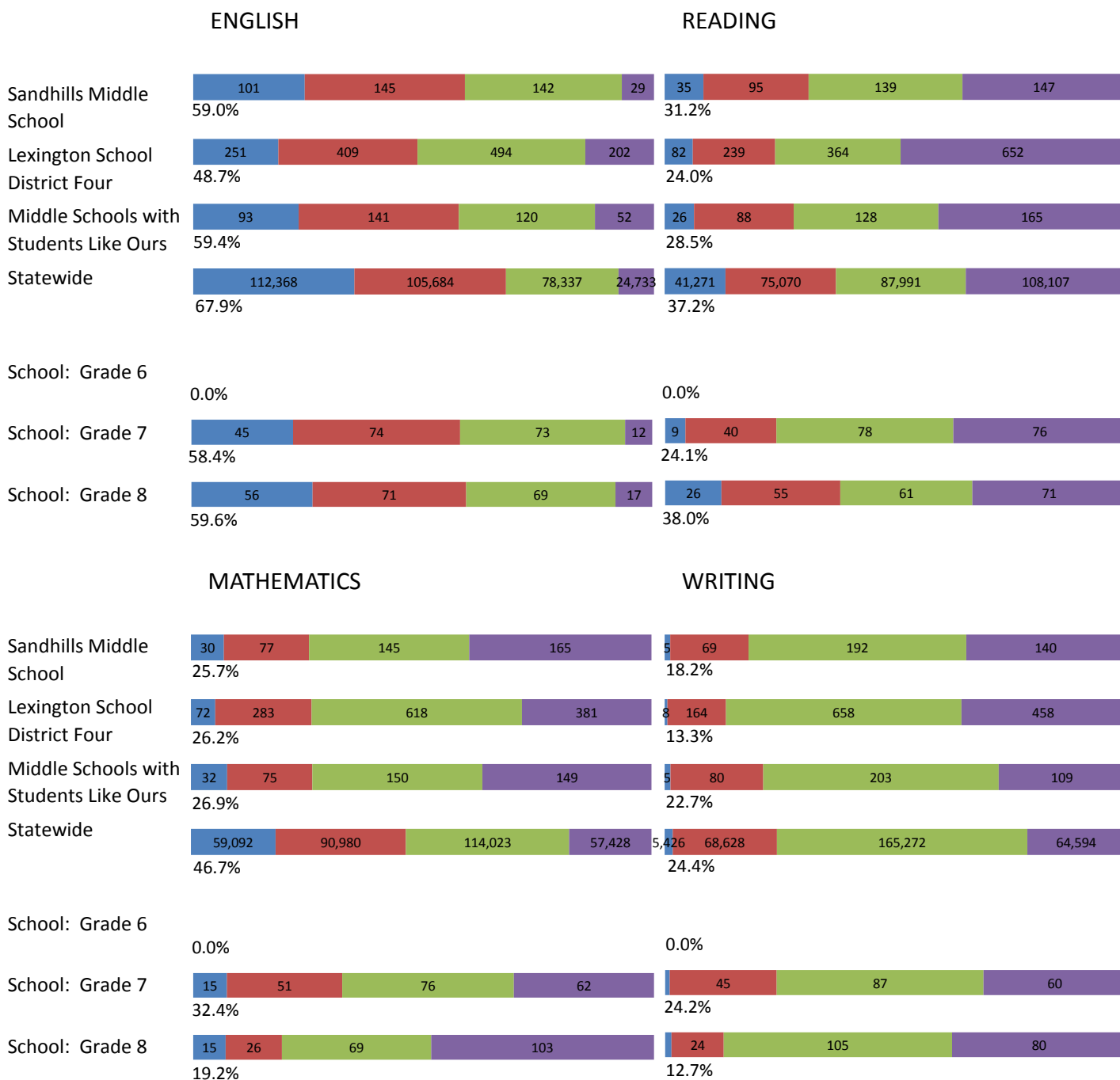
Our school is helping all students develop the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the Graduate by ...

Sandhills Middle is committed to being a student-centered, inquiry-based school where students utilize 21st Century skills to master rigorous content across disciplines. This year we worked with our district schools to create transfer goals reflecting all components of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate across core curriculum. Our faculty collaboratively identified enduring understandings and created essential questions that will drive our inquiry-based learning. Utilizing the Buck Institute's Project-Based Learning strategies, each course created and implemented inquiry-based units that embedded citizenship skills and emphasized real-world connections. Collectively we engaged in action research focused on using effective success criteria, leading learning with inquiry experiences, and designing quality rubrics. Our teachers developed and implemented quarterly performance tasks requiring students to synthesize essential information and apply skills and concepts to novel tasks. Parents and community members formed authentic public audiences for student-led presentations. Our interdisciplinary teams focused on developing student-centered learning communities that nurtured communication, creativity, collaboration, and critical thinking. Our faculty developed a school-wide rubric measuring effective student collaboration. We engaged in professional study on the concept of growth mindset and its positive impact on all stakeholders within a student-centered culture. The implementation of a Project Lead the Way course further enhanced students' development of authentic science, technology, engineering, and mathematical skills. SMS students continued to acquire a global perspective and contribute to the community. Student leaders presented multiple school initiatives to district and community organizations. Our Beta Club conducted a Toy Drive for the Palmetto Health Children's Hospital, our Ambassadors sponsored a Chain Links anti-bullying initiative, and our Project Unify students continued to create a culture that values the unique contributions and talents of every student. Our SMS Band and Chorus were again recognized for Superior performance with our Chorus placing 3rd statewide in technical performance. Justin Nutter, Principal, Mary Kennedy, SIC Chair

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

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

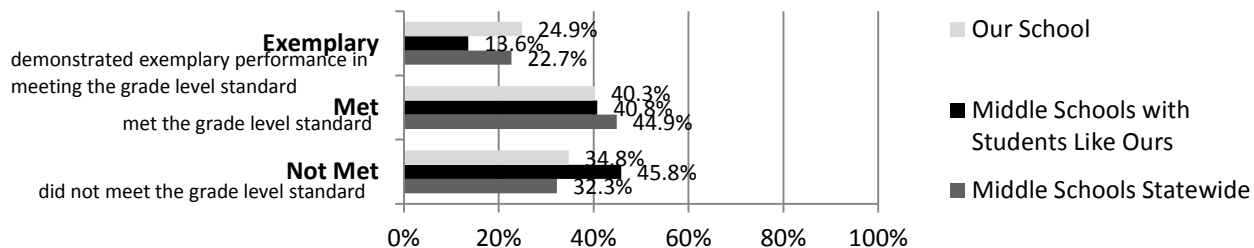
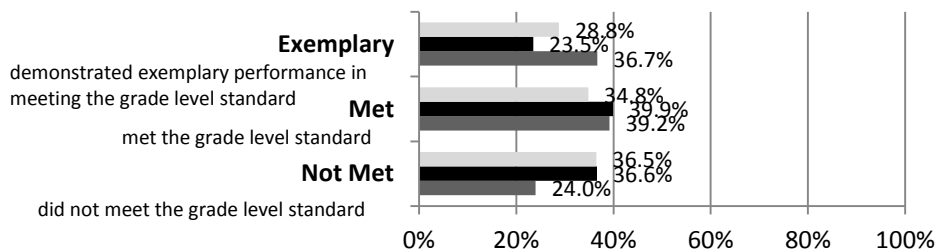
N/C-Not Collected

N/R-Not Reported

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
N/A	71.1	59.6

Social Studies SCPASS

Our School: Percent Met and Above for each grade level

6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
N/A	71.1	56.3

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	98.6	95.3
English 1	N/A	93
Biology 1	N/A	54.0
US History and the Constitution	N/A	50
All Subjects	98.6	93.3

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
Students (n = 448)			
Percent of students participating in Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF; homeless, foster, or migrant students (poverty index)	84.5	Down from 86.9%	N/A
Percent of students (grade 7 & 8) enrolled in HS credit courses	16.5	Up from 11.2%	23.5
Attendance Rate	93.5	Down from 95.3%	95.0
With disabilities	15.3	Down from 16.7%	15.3
Out of school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	2.9	Up from 0.6%	0.6
Percentage of students served by gifted and talented programs	17.6	Up from 13.7%	14.2
Percentage of students retained	0.0	No change	1.0
Annual dropout rate	0.0	No change	0.0
Teachers (n = 29)			
Percentage of teachers with advanced degrees	44.8	Down from 58.6%	57.3
Percentage of teachers on continuing contract	55.2	Down from 58.6%	71.4
Teachers returning from previous year	73.6	Down from 74.1%	82.9
Teacher attendance rate	96.8	Up from 95.5%	94.7
Average teacher salary*	\$38,336	Down 3.0%	\$46,365
Professional development days / teacher	14.2 days	Up from 11.4 days	11.2 days
Percentage of teacher vacancies for more than 9 weeks	0.0	N/A	0.7
School			
Principal's years at school	8.0	Up from 7.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	26.2 to 1	Down from 29.9 to 1	19.6 to 1
Prime instructional time	88.1	Down from 89.7%	88.4
Opportunities in the arts	Good	Down from Excellent	Good
Opportunities in foreign languages	Poor	N/A	Poor
AdvancEd (SACS) accreditation	Yes	No change	Yes
Parents attending conferences	98.9	Down from 100.0%	99.2
Character development program	Good	No change	Good
Avg. age of books / electronic media in the school library	11.0	N/A	14.8
Number of resources available per student in the school library media center	22.3	N/A	25.6
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	0.7	N/C	0.8
District-issued technology devices per teacher	1.7	N/C	2.0
Percentage of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	2.4	Down from 3.8%	5.5
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$6,113	Down 6.6%	\$8,605
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	51.5	Up from 51.2%	60.7
Percent of expenditures for teachers' salaries**	53.5	Up from 51.9%	62.3

* 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**

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	31	194	35
Percent satisfied with learning environment	96.7	73.2	91.5
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	96.7	73.5	88.2
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	77.4	83.0	60.0

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

State Ratings History of School

Year	Absolute Rating	Growth Rating
2014	Average	Good
2013	Average	Good
2012	Average	Good

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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