

Laurens District 55 High School

5058 Hwy 76 West
Laurens, SC 29360

**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: 9-12 High
Enrollment: 1,661 students
School Phone: 864-682-3151
School Website: <http://www.ldhsraiders.org/>

Principal: Sonya M. Bryant
Superintendent: Dr. Billy R. Strickland
Board Chair: Mrs. Susan Calhoun-Ware

**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

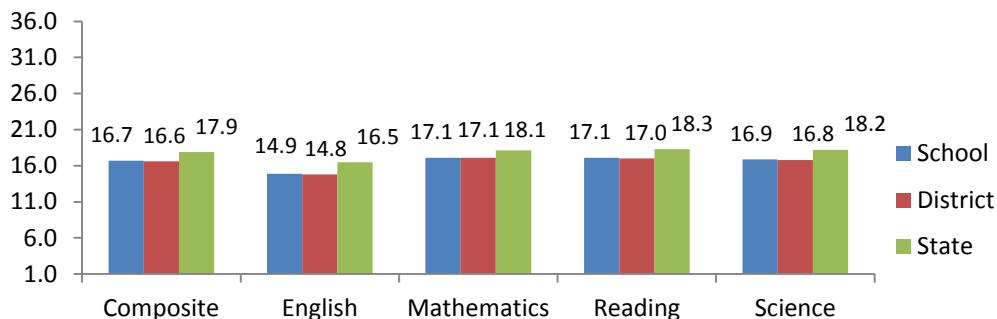
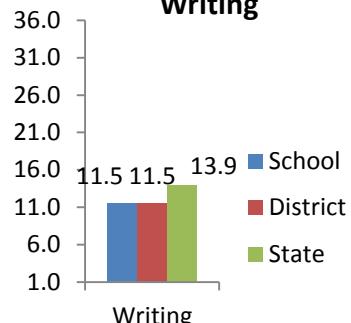
- Integrity
- Self-direction
- Global perspective
- Perseverance
- Work ethic
- Interpersonal skills

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 ...

The 2014-2015 school year was an exceptionally busy one for students and faculty at Laurens District 55 High School. Mrs. Sonya Bryant in her second year as principal, hosted the annual off-campus retreat for faculty members. During this retreat the faculty began planning for the new year. We are elated to report that our graduation rate improved 5.9 percentage points which denotes one of the greatest increases in our state's history. This year we also planned several end of the year celebrations to highlight graduation. This year our school was able to hire a full-time instructional coach. Under her direction the faculty spent much time in teacher-driven professional development which included but was not limited to the development of student learning objectives, pre and post test administration and targeted student achievement improvement. Another positive addition to our school family this year was the inclusion of a full time nurse assistant and part-time graduation coach. We also spent quality time in professional development with our sister-school Clinton High School. LDHS also received support from our district to provide all ninth and tenth graders with Google Chromebooks. Teachers spent much time training on how to effectively use these for classroom instruction. This year was also the first year of The Carolina Alliance for Technology (CAT) program. This is a federally funded program that will offer our students opportunities for real work experience in STEM career fields that will culminate in apprenticeships, college course work and industry-recognized certifications. Through this grant we also instituted the AVID program in our school. Mrs. Kelly Weldy served as teacher of the year for Laurens District High School. She represented the educators in our school in an exceptional manner. Finally, we proudly announce the Class of 2015 earned in excess of 3.7 million dollars in scholarship funds. This year was a year of growing and learning for all at LDHS. We look forward to discovering where knowledge gained this year will take us in the future. Sonya M. Bryant, Principal Kelly Weldy, School Improvement Chair

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

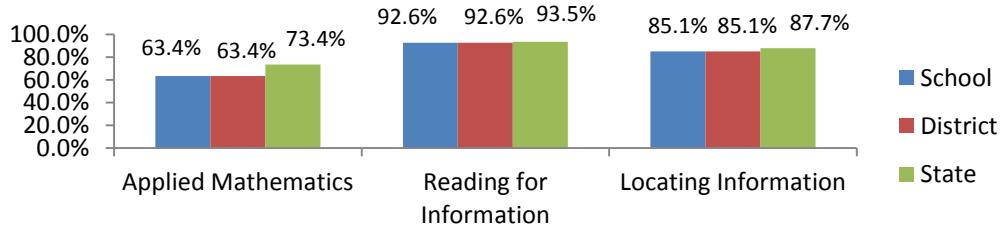
KNOWLEDGE**Average ACT Score Achieved by Students: English, Math, Reading, Science, Composite of all four tests, 2015****Average ACT Score Achieved by Students: Writing**

The ACT, a college readiness assessment, was given to every South Carolina 11th grader in 2015 with the exception of those eligible for alternate assessments. The ACT scores range from 0 to 36. The district and state averages are included for comparison. State averages for ACT data are based on regular public schools and do not include private schools in the state.

Percent of Students Meeting ACT College-Ready Benchmarks, 2015

English Benchmark Score: 18	Math Benchmark Score: 22	Reading Benchmark Score: 22	Science Benchmark Score: 23	All 4 Subjects
26.5	15.2	18.5	11.6	7.3

ACT benchmarks are scores on the ACT subject-area tests that represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing first-year college courses.

Percent of Students Meeting Platinum, Gold, or Silver Threshold on WorkKeys, 2015

ACT WorkKeys is a job skills assessment system measuring "real world" skills that employers believe are critical in the workplace. The assessment is given to every South Carolina 11th grader with the exception of those eligible for alternative assessments. The assessment consists of three subtests: Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information. Students can earn certificates at the Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze level on WorkKeys assessments.

The ACT is a registered trademark of ACT, Inc.

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

SAT Performance				
Percent of Students Tested	Average Critical Reading Score	Average Math Score	Average Writing Score	Average Composite Score
30.4	456	476	425	1357

The highest composite score on the SAT is a 2400. For each of the three sections of the test, the highest score is 800.

End of Course Tests

Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our School	High Schools with Students Like Ours	State
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	69.6	77.5	85.7
English 1	63.1	62.4	75.1
Biology 1	71.6	71.2	77.8
US History and the Constitution	73.3	58.8	69.1
All Subjects	69.8	67.5	77.3

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

OUTCOMES

State Graduation Rate	
Four-Year	Five-Year
80.3	82.0

School Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate			
2015	2014	2013	2012
79.0	79.7	73.8	71.5

School Five-Year Cohort Graduation Rate			
2015	2014	2013	2012
80.5	77.2	75.8	70.2

Percentage of Seniors Eligible for LIFE Scholarship		
Our School	District	State
27.9	27.9	42.2

Percentage of Students from 2014 Graduating Class Enrolled in a two- or four-year college or technical college pursuing an associates degree, certificate, or diploma in Fall 2014		
Our School	District	State
53.2	53.2	70.3

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OPPORTUNITIES**For students to meet the profile of the SC Graduate**

	Our School	Change from Last Year	High Schools with students like ours
Students (n = 1,661)			
Percent of students participating in Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF; homeless, foster, or migrant students (poverty index)	73.4	Down from 79.0%	N/A
Attendance Rate	94.3	Down from 96.9%	93.9
With disabilities	12.7	Up from 12.4%	12.4
Out of school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.9	Down from 1.0%	0.9
Percentage of students served by gifted and talented programs	17.0	Down from 19.9%	17.5
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	21.5	Down from 24.2%	12.7
Successful in AP/IB programs	36.7	Up from 29.3%	45.2
Career/tech students in co-curricular organizations	13.0	Up from 0.8%	2.1
Enrollment in career/technology courses	1579	Up from 1211	672
Students participating in work-based experiences	18.3	Down from 22.6%	13.2
Number of seniors who have completed FAFSA forms	177	N/A	191
Percentage of seniors completing college applications	57.1	N/A	74.4
Number of students in dual enrollment courses	159	N/A	61
Success rate of students in dual enrollment courses	99.0	N/A	96.1
Annual dropout rate	3.0	Down from 4.1%	2.5
Dropout recovery rate	0.0	N/A	5.0
Percentage of students retained	3.6	Down from 4.7%	3.0
Teachers (n = 87)			
Percentage of teachers with advanced degrees	60.9	Down from 63.0%	60.9
Percentage of teachers on continuing contract	87.4	Up from 82.7%	76.3
Teachers returning from previous year	93.0	Down from 94.0%	85.7
Teacher attendance rate	95.8	Up from 94.3%	95.4
Average teacher salary*	\$48,211	Up 0.6%	\$48,183
Professional development days / teacher	16.8 days	Down from 20.3 days	11.4 days
Percentage of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	2.6	Up from 2.3%	3.2
Percentage of teacher vacancies for more than 9 weeks	0.0	N/A	0.6

Evaluations by Teachers, Students, and Parents

Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	89	334	27
Percent satisfied with learning environment	89.9	76.6	77.8
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	90.9	67.2	66.7
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	70.7	87.4	59.2

* Only students in grade 11 and their parents were included.

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OPPORTUNITIES

	Our School	Change from Last Year	High Schools with students like ours
School			
Principal's years at school	2.0	No change	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	33.3 to 1	Down from 33.4 to 1	27.2 to 1
Prime instructional time	88.0	Down from 88.2%	87.8
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No change	Good
Opportunities in foreign languages	Good	N/A	Poor
Dual enrollment courses offered	11.0	N/A	12.0
Are online or blended (50% online) courses offered	N/A	N/C	N/A
AdvancEd (SACS) accreditation	Yes	No change	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0	Up from 92.3%	99.8
Character development program	Fair	Up from Poor	Good
Avg. Age of books/electronic media in the school library	22.0	N/A	15.1
Number of resources available per student in the school library media center	19.5	N/A	24.0
Bandwidth capacity per student	<25 Mbps	N/C	N/A
District-issued technology devices per teacher	1.4	N/C	1.9
Percent of classrooms with wireless access	76-100%	N/C	N/A
District-issued learning devices per student	0.9	N/C	0.9
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$7,883	Down 0.0%	\$8,407
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	57.5	Up from 57.1%	57.8
Percent of expenditures for teachers' salaries**	59.0	Up from 57.7%	59.0

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

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

State Ratings History of School

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

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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