

Laurens Middle School

1035 W. Main St.

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: 6-8 Middle**Enrollment:** 449 students**School Phone:** 864-984-2400**School Website:** <http://www.laurensmiddle.org/>**Principal:** Rhett Harris**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

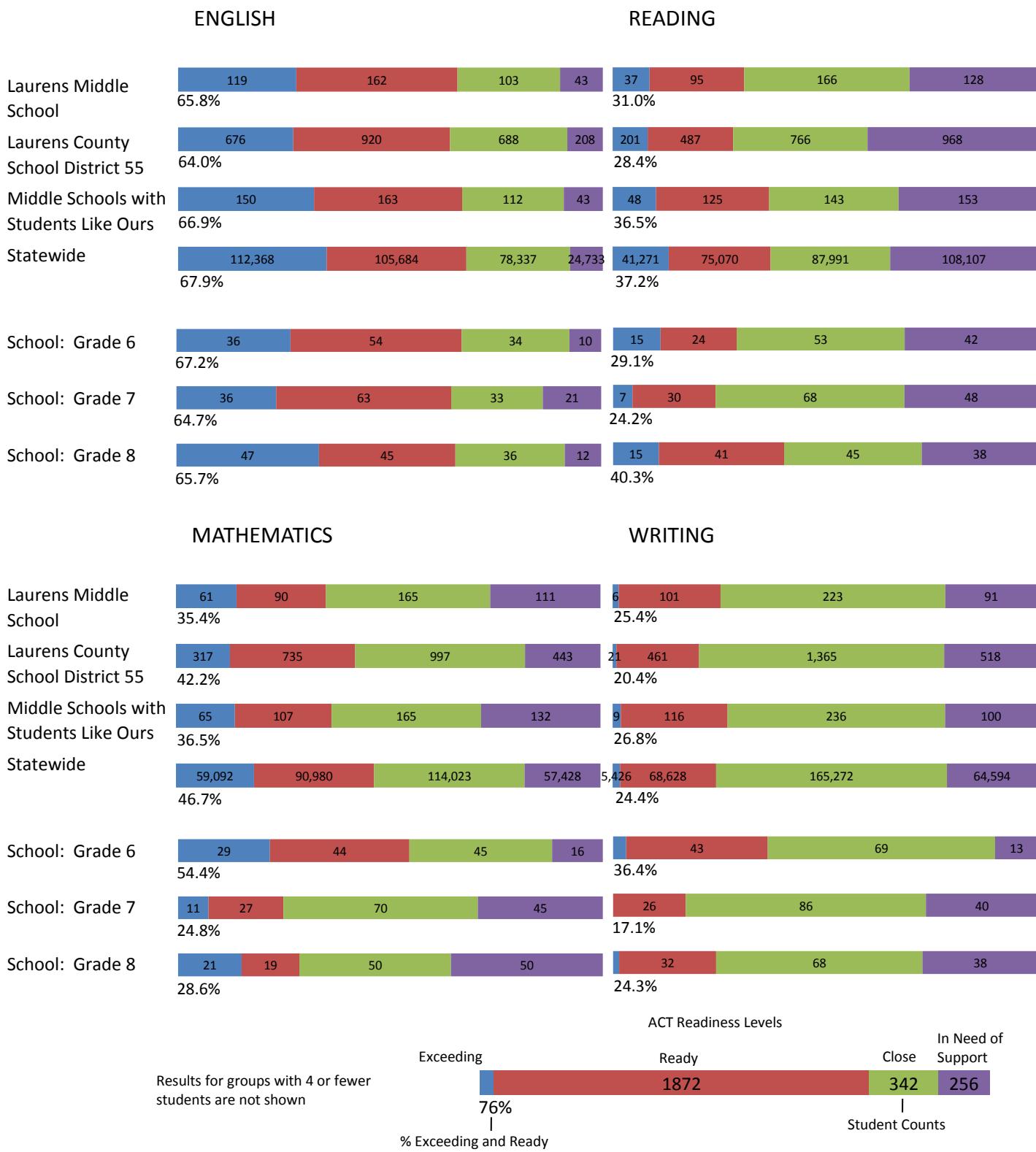
Our school is helping all students develop the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the Graduate by ...

Laurens Middle School continued to focus on our mission of “empowering students for success” in 2014/15. Our teachers and staff focused efforts on studying data garnered from student test scores to identify weaknesses and formulate plans to address them. Using How Teachers Can Turn Data Into Action as a guide, teacher teams worked cooperatively to pinpoint verified shortcomings and utilized best instructional practices to shore up areas students struggled with. With the Student Learning Objective (SLO) initiative arriving in 2015/16, teachers were better equipped to move comfortably into this new evaluative measure through the processes and issues they encountered and effectively worked through. The AdvancEd process for school accreditation was also at the forefront of staff efforts this school year. Work done in advance of a visit by the accrediting body slated for November of 2015, included a process of deep self-reflection and culminated in the writing of a new strategic plan that will guide us over the next five years. We eagerly await the validation of our efforts that is sure to come with the formal visit by an AdvancEd team in the fall. The student body of Laurens Middle School produced an abundance of quality work this school year. Student efforts in academics, athletics, performing and visual arts as well as supporting our community through giving and serving were all demonstrative of a talented and generous group of young people. Laurens Middle School said goodbye to several retiring teachers at the end of the school year. I’d like to take one more opportunity to thank those who gave so much of themselves to the education of children over many years filled with accomplishments sure to live on in the lives of those they served. We will forever be indebted to these who gave so selflessly to our honorable profession. As we enter into a new school year, we would like to thank all of our stakeholders who gave of themselves to make our school more effective this year. To those parents, business partners and volunteers who supported us throughout the year we say thanks as we ask that you continue to help us advocate for students in the upcoming year. Rhett Harris Ed.D., Principal Caroline Barker, 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

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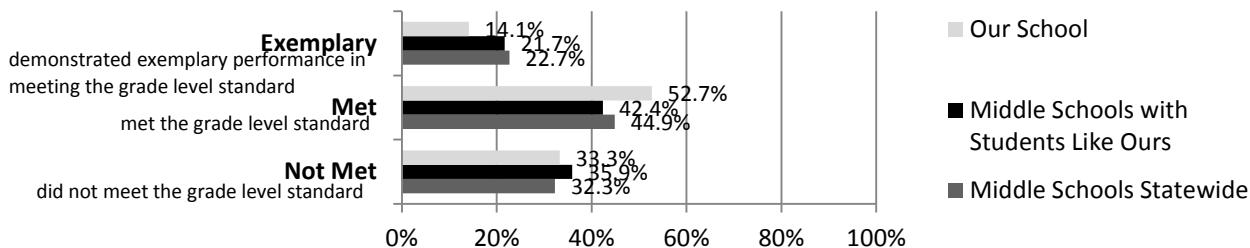
N/R-Not Reported

I/S-Insufficient Sample

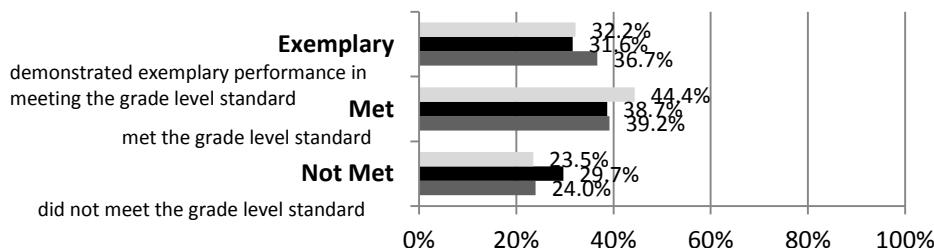
KNOWLEDGE

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
68.7	66.7	65.0

Social Studies SCPASS

Our School: Percent Met and Above for each grade level

6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
72.4	75.0	82.1

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	96.6
English 1	100	93.1
Biology 1	N/A	57.8
US History and the Constitution	N/A	51.7
All Subjects	100.0	95.0

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 = 449)			
Percent of students participating in Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF; homeless, foster, or migrant students (poverty index)	75.1	Down from 80.5%	N/A
Percent of students (grade 7 & 8) enrolled in HS credit courses	15.3	Up from 13.6%	25.8
Attendance Rate	95.7	Down from 96.2%	95.2
With disabilities	16.3	Up from 15.0%	13.5
Out of school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0	No change	1.0
Percentage of students served by gifted and talented programs	14.5	Up from 13.0%	19.6
Percentage of students retained	0.4	Down from 2.5%	0.7
Annual dropout rate	0.0	No change	0.0
Teachers (n = 28)			
Percentage of teachers with advanced degrees	39.3	Up from 38.5%	57.8
Percentage of teachers on continuing contract	67.9	Down from 69.2%	78.5
Teachers returning from previous year	77.4	Down from 79.0%	86.5
Teacher attendance rate	99.1	Down from 100.0%	94.7
Average teacher salary*	\$43,895	Down 0.9%	\$46,801
Professional development days / teacher	7.8 days	Down from 11.7 days	10.7 days
Percentage of teacher vacancies for more than 9 weeks	0.0	N/A	0.4
School			
Principal's years at school	12.0	Up from 11.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	23.9 to 1	Down from 25.9 to 1	21.3 to 1
Prime instructional time	93.2	Down from 95.2%	88.7
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No change	Good
Opportunities in foreign languages	Poor	N/A	Poor
AdvancEd (SACS) accreditation	Yes	No change	Yes
Parents attending conferences	99.8	Down from 100.0%	99.6
Character development program	Good	No change	Good
Avg. age of books / electronic media in the school library	16.0	N/A	15.0
Number of resources available per student in the school library media center	14.4	N/A	24.7
Bandwidth capacity per student	<25 Mbps	N/C	N/A
Percent of classrooms with wireless access	0-25%	N/C	N/A
District-issued learning devices per student	0.3	N/C	0.9
District-issued technology devices per teacher	1.5	N/C	2.0
Percentage of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	3.5	Down from 21.9%	4.9
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$8,230	Up 7.9%	\$7,593
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	58.0	Up from 57.5%	61.4
Percent of expenditures for teachers' salaries**	59.0	Up from 57.8%	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	23	135	28
Percent satisfied with learning environment	95.6	79.2	71.4
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	95.6	73.7	82.2
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	73.9	82.2	67.9

* 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	Average
2013	Average	Good
2012	Average	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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