

# South Carolina Schools to Watch



## 2019-2020 Application for Initial Designation

A Program of:  
The National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform

Sponsored in part by:  
South Carolina Association for Middle Level Education  
South Carolina Department of Education  
Center for Educational Partnerships – Middle Grades Initiative

# South Carolina Schools to Watch®

## 2019-2020 Application

Public middle level schools or publically funded middle level charter schools are eligible to apply. Middle level schools are defined as schools serving students in grades five through nine. A school meeting these requirements is invited to demonstrate its progress in becoming a high-performing middle level school by applying for this prestigious recognition. Schools to Watch are schools that are

- **Academically Excellent.** These schools challenge all students to use their minds well.
- **Developmentally Responsive.** These schools are sensitive to the unique developmental challenges of early adolescence.
- **Socially Equitable.** These schools are democratic and fair, providing every student with high-quality teachers, resources, and supports.

To achieve this level of performance, high-performing schools establish norms, structures, and organizational arrangements to support and sustain their trajectory toward excellence. They have a sense of purpose that drives every facet of practice and decision-making. Prior to completing the STW application, each school must complete the STW Self-Rating Rubric to determine level of implementation of Schools to Watch criteria. Please contact SC-AMLE for instructions on completing the STW Self-Rating Rubric.

Selected schools will be featured in state and national publications, and will be visited by educators from around the country looking to see where “things are being done right.” Schools will also participate in professional development, and will serve as a model for other schools using the Schools to Watch Criteria to guide school improvement and reform. Schools visited by the selection committee but not selected for Schools to Watch recognition will be offered a half-day follow-up visit to discuss particular strengths and challenges of the school and ways in which SC-AMLE and SCASA-ML can assist the school in its efforts.

### Tell Us What Makes Your School a “School to Watch”

In an eight- to ten-page narrative describe how your school is making its way toward becoming a high-performing middle-grades school. The narrative will include sections II, III, IV, V, and VI. Sections III, IV, V and VI will address the four STW domains and STW criteria. **Be sure to refer to the Schools to Watch Domains and Criteria when framing your answers. Please watch space requirements.** Videos, PowerPoint presentations, scrapbooks, or other supporting material will not be considered. Organize your application as follows:

Section I - General School Information - page 4 in application

Section II - Description of your school and district - Include information on the mobility of your student population if applicable and any significant changes in your student population with regard to demographics or socio-economic status in the last five years.

Section III - Academic Excellence - Describe how your school exhibits academic excellence. Address the following: your methods of services (pull-out, inclusion, etc.) for disabled students, ESOL students, and gifted/talented students; the overall progress you have made in lifting student achievement scores over the past three years; how your achievement data compares with those of other schools in your district and the state; your standardized test performance trends over the last three years; and plans to address any areas of concern.

Section IV - Developmental Responsiveness - Describe how your school is responding to the developmental needs of the early adolescent.

Section V - Social Equity - Describe how your school exhibits social equity for all students. Include information on how students are grouped for instruction as well as suspension and retention rates.

Section VI - Organizational structures and processes that support change in your school. Describe what norms, structures, and organizational arrangements your school has established to support your trajectory toward excellence. You may include organizational structures and processes in areas of academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, and social equity. If you choose to include them in these areas, you do not have to include a separate section for structures and processes.

Section VII - Demographic Information and Academic Performance - pages 5-11 of application. Examples for some charts are given at end of application.

Section VIII - Signature and Permission included in application - page 13 of application

Please notify SC-AMLE if you are planning to complete an application by contacting Tina Jamison at [tina.jamison@scamle.org](mailto:tina.jamison@scamle.org). **The STW Self-Study and Rating Rubric must be completed online prior to submitting the application. Contact Tina Jamison for instructions on completing the online STW Self-Study and Rating Rubric.** Return the application to SC-AMLE by the September 20, 2019 deadline. Also, please send a copy via e-mail attachment to [tina.jamison@scamle.org](mailto:tina.jamison@scamle.org). Call Tina Jamison at (803)261-6117 if you have any questions. We look forward to receiving your application!



## The National Forum to Accelerate Middle Grades Reform

### Demographic Information and Academic Performance

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_

District Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle Grades in Your School: \_\_\_\_\_

If there are grades other than the above in your school, please list them: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number : ( e.g.: 123-456-7890) \_\_\_\_\_

Fax Number: (e.g.: 123-456-7890) \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Principal's E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

School Website [URL](#): \_\_\_\_\_

School Community:

Urban
Rural
Suburban

Student Population	Grade 6	Grade 7	Grade 8	Total	Percent
All Students					
Male					
Female					
White					
African-American					
Asian/Pacific Is.					
Hispanic					
Am. Indian/Alaskan					
Disabled					
Limited English Prof.					
Subsidized Meals					
What was the average attendance rate (% of all students) in your school during the last school year?					

## Suspension Data for 2018-2019 School Year

Student Population		In-School Suspensions		Out-Of-School Suspensions	
Category	Total Number of Students in School 2016-17 (135-Day Report)	Number of Different Students Suspended in School	Total Number of In-School Suspensions	Number of Different Students Suspended Out of School	Total Number of Out of School Suspensions
All Students					
Male					
Female					
White					
African-American					
Asian/Pacific					
Hispanic					
Disabled					
Not Disabled					
Limited Eng. Prof.					
Non- LEP					
Subsidized Meals					
Full-Pay Meals					

## Students Not Promoted (Retained) at the End of Last School Year 2018-2019

Student Populations	Grade 6		Grade 7		Grade 8	
	Number Not Promoted	Percent of Total in Grade	Number Not Promoted	Percent of Total in Grade	Number Not Promoted	Percent of Total in Grade
All Students						
Male						
Female						
White						
African-American						
Asian/Pacific Is.						
Hispanic						
Am. Indian/Alaskan						
Disabled						
Not Disabled						
Limited Eng. Prof.						
Non -LEP						
Subsidized Meals						
Full-Pay Meals						

## 2019 SC Ready Scores - Percent Meets or Exceeds Expectations

	ELA 6	Math 6	ELA 7	Math 7	ELA 8	Math 8
All Students						
Male						
Female						
Hispanic/Latino						
American Indian						
Asian						
African American						
Pacific Islander						
White						
Two or More Races						
Disabled						
Not Disabled						
Migrant						
Non-Migrant						
LEP						
Non-LEP						
Students in Poverty						
Non- SIP						

## 2018 SC Ready Scores - Percent Meets or Exceeds Expectations

	ELA 6	Math 6	ELA 7	Math 7	ELA 8	Math 8
All Students						
Male						
Female						
Hispanic/Latino						
American Indian						
Asian						
African American						
Pacific Islander						
White						
Two or More Races						
Disabled						
Not Disabled						
Migrant						
Non-Migrant						
LEP						
Non-LEP						
Students in Poverty						
Non- SIP						



## 2017 SC Ready Scores - Percent Meets or Exceeds Expectations

	ELA 6	Math 6	ELA 7	Math 7	ELA 8	Math 8
All Students						
Male						
Female						
Hispanic/Latino						
American Indian						
Asian						
African American						
Pacific Islander						
White						
Two or More Races						
Disabled						
Not Disabled						
Migrant						
Non-Migrant						
LEP						
Non-LEP						
Students in Poverty						
Non- SIP						

### 2019 SC PASS Scores % Met and Exemplary

	Science 6	S Studies 6	Science 7	S Studies 7	Science 8	S Studies 8
All Students						
Male						
Female						
White						
African American						
Asian Pacific						
Hispanic						
Am. Indian						
Disabled						
Not Disabled						
LEP						
Non LEP						
Subsidized Meals						
Full Pay Meals						

## 2018 SCPASS Scores % Met and Exemplary

	SC 6	SS 6	SC 7	SS 7	SC 8	SS 8
All Students						
Male						
Female						
White						
African American						
Asian Pacific						
Hispanic						
Am. Indian						
Disabled						
Not Disabled						
LEP						
Non LEP						
Subsidized Meals						
Full Pay Meals						

## 2017 SCPASS Scores % Met and Exemplary

	SC 6	SS 6	SC 7	SS 7	SC 8	SS 8
All Students						
Male						
Female						
White						
African American						
Asian Pacific						
Hispanic						
Am. Indian						
Disabled						
Not Disabled						
LEP						
Non LEP						
Subsidized Meals						
Full Pay Meals						

Teacher Populations			Number
Total Number of Teachers in School			
Number of Regular Education Teachers			
Number of Special Education Teachers			
Number of ESL/ELL Teachers			
Number of "Core" Subject Teachers			
Subject	6 <sup>th</sup> Grade	7 <sup>th</sup> Grade	8 <sup>th</sup> Grade
Language Arts			
Mathematics			
Science			
Social Studies			

Teacher Certification/Licensure		
Certification	Grade Span	Number
Elementary Certificate/License	Pre K-4	
Middle Grades Certificate/License	4-8	
Secondary Certificate/License	5-12	
Other Certificate/License	Pre-K-12	
Middle Grades Endorsements	4-8	
Other Credentials	Uncertified	
<p>*Certificates/Licenses are "initial" credentials while "Endorsements" are "add-ons" to an initial credential. Numbers may reflect that some teachers have an initial elementary or secondary credential but also have a middle grades endorsement.</p>		

## Signature and Permission

I give permission to the National Forum, the SC-AMLE and SCASA-Middle Level to publish the information and materials included in this application on their websites in order to help other schools move toward high performance. I understand that selection committee members may conduct a site visit to my school between October 1, 2019 and February 1, 2020 and I will gladly host such a visit. If my school is selected as a "School to Watch", I will send a team to present at the South Carolina Association for Middle Level Education Conference in February 2020 and the National STW Conference in Washington, DC in June 2020. Furthermore, if my school is selected as a "School to Watch," a documentation team may visit the school during the spring of 2020 in order to gather further information for a case study. This case study may include written, photographed, and videotaped documentation. My staff and I will cooperate in the data-gathering effort to the fullest extent possible and will assist in obtaining the necessary releases for the case study. I recognize that being selected as a "School to Watch" will result in an increase of outside visitors and publicity. We are prepared to share our knowledge and experience with others in order to accelerate middle-grades reform.

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Principal's Signature

Date

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School Improvement Chair's Signature

Date

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Superintendent/Designee's Signature

Date

## Return Your Completed Application

Please mail completed applications to:

Tina Jamison, SC-AMLE  
225 Gardenwalk Drive  
West Columbia, SC 29170  
Phone: (803) 261-6117

Please do not fax applications. Call or e-mail: [tina.jamison@scamle.org](mailto:tina.jamison@scamle.org) if you have any questions about your application or the process.

**All applications must be received by September 20, 2019**

Thank you for helping to strengthen middle-grades schools by taking the time to complete this application.

## Explanation/Examples of Demographic Charts

Page 5 – Student Population – for current school year (2019-2020)  
Average Attendance – for last school year (2018-2019)

Page 6 – Suspension Data – for last school year (2018-2019)

Number of different students is an unduplicated count. Total number of suspensions is a duplicated count. The unduplicated count is never larger than the total number of suspensions.

Students Not Promoted Data – for last school year (2018-2019)