

RICHLAND TWO ANNUAL REPORT

DEBBIE HAMM, PH.D., SUPERINTENDENT

As a 35-year veteran of the Richland School District Two family, I am honored to serve as the superintendent of a district with a strong history in providing excellent programs in academics, athletics and the arts. Our dedicated school board members and nearly 3,700 employees eagerly partner with our community to provide meaningful, challenging and engaging learning experiences for all of our 27,000 plus students.

We began the school year focused on nine priority areas: (1) magnet offerings; (2) student discipline; (3) policy and practice; (4) middle school success; (5) leadership, management, supervision, and nuts-and-bolts training; (6) use of data to improve teaching, learning and services; (7) comprehensive diversity plan; (8) grading and assessment; and (9) positioning/marketing of Richland Two. As we continue to evaluate and improve in these areas, we remain focused on our Four Squares — Learning, Character, Community and Joy.

These four cornerstones of education provide a strong foundation to achieve great things. The Class of 2014 earned \$88.7 million in college scholarships. Richland Two was the first school district in the Midlands to raise more than \$100,000 for United Way. Choice and Magnet programs attracted nearly 5,300 applications. Richland Two ranks first in the state and 12th nationally for the number of National Board Certified teachers with 693. On the most recently released state report card, Richland Two earned an Excellent absolute rating and Good growth rating. Our district continues to be one of a few districts in the state with a “AA” credit rating from all three national bond rating agencies. We are home to several nationally recognized students and teachers, coaches of the year, state athletic champions, administrators of the year, Model United Nations champions and so much more.

To maintain this level of success, as well as manage our student growth, we must expand our facilities and programs. I am especially excited about the expansion of our tuition-free child development program. We also look forward to providing additional options to our students making important decisions about life after our high school. The Richland Two Institute of Innovation (R2i2), currently under construction near the Village at Sandhill, will serve students from across the district, providing a central location for a collaborative learning environment that supports innovative instruction.

This is just a small sample of our success and progress. Please visit our website, www.richland2.org, to learn more about how our dedicated employees, parents and community members work together to help our students develop world-class knowledge and life and career skills that serve them well as they seek out success during all stages of their life.



STATE REPORT CARD

In the 2013-2014 school year, 14 Richland Two schools/centers earned an absolute report card rating of Excellent. L.W. Conder Elementary improved its absolute ratings from Average to Excellent. Nine Richland Two schools saw an improved report card rating, of which Polo Road Elementary improved from Average to Excellent in three years. Overall, 94 percent of district schools had an absolute rating of Average or higher. Richland Two received an Excellent absolute rating and Good growth rating. The percentage of Richland Two students graduating on time rose to 82.8 percent. There were 1,544 total graduates.

ADVANCED PLACEMENT

Advanced Placement (AP) scores continue to exceed those of the state and nation. Of AP exams taken, 64 percent had passing scores of three (3) or higher compared to 57 percent at the state and national level.

PALMETTO ASSESSMENT OF STATE STANDARDS

Students in grades 3-8 are tested annually on the South Carolina Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SC-PASS) in the areas of English/Language Arts (ELA), Writing, Math, Science and Social Studies. Noteworthy improvements were made by elementary and middle school students in math.

SC-PASS (PERCENT OF STUDENTS SCORING MET OR HIGHER)

GRADE	ELA	WRITING	MATH	SCIENCE	SOCIAL STUDIES
3	82.7	80.5	74.1	65.6	80.0
4	81.0	80.2	77.5	73.9	85.2
5	83.4	83.4	76.9	70.2	73.1
6	67.8	76.8	62.8	60.6	76.9
7	67.3	75.2	68.0	74.9	63.8
8	65.4	74.6	61.7	63.7	67.4

SAT COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAM

	Math	Critical Reading	Writing	Composite
Richland 2	477	478	452	1407
State	487	483	459	1429
Nation	501	492	478	1471

GENERAL AND SPECIAL

REVENUE FUNDS (2013-2014 AUDITED)

During the 2013-2014 school year, Richland Two received a total of \$261,494,301 in revenue to the General and Special Revenue Funds. The General Fund is the primary budget for all ordinary operations of a school district. Revenue for the General Fund comes from state and local taxes, with a very small amount coming from federal sources. Special Revenue funds account for state and federal grants, including State EIA funds.

STATE	\$158,891,781
LOCAL	88,266,496
FEDERAL	14,243,044
INTERGOVERNMENTAL	92,980
TOTAL	\$261,494,301

TOTAL DISTRICT FUNDS EXPENDED IN 2013-2014 SCHOOL YEAR (BASED ON AUDITED FIGURES)

Other significant district funds include, the Debt Service Fund (pays for all bond payments) and the Capital Projects Fund (accounts for all expenditures for new construction and renovations), the Food Service Fund (accounts for the operation of the breakfast and lunch program), Pupil Activity Funds (record activity for student organizations) and the Worker's Comp Fund (accounts for self-insurance fund for Worker's Compensation).

GENERAL FUND	\$222,087,848
SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS	33,351,469
DEBT SERVICE FUND	52,080,177
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	31,347,821
FOOD SERVICE FUND	10,911,686
PUPIL ACTIVITY FUND	7,632,021
WORKER'S COMP FUND	1,172,837
TOTAL	\$358,583,859

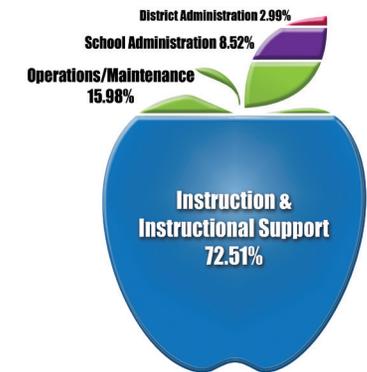
DAILY PER-PUPIL COST OF EDUCATION

Based on the most recent audit report for the year ended June 30, 2014, Richland Two spent an estimated \$9,460 per pupil from General Fund and Special Revenue Funds to educate our students. For a 180-day school year, that breaks down to \$52.56 per pupil, per day.

STUDENT ENROLLMENT

The current enrollment of 27,336 Pre-Kindergarten through 12th grade students represents an increase of 6,065 students since the 2005-2006 school year. In 2014-2015, PK-12 enrollment increased by 475 students compared to the previous year.

PER-PUPIL BREAKDOWN



ON THE ROAD TO INNOVATION

The R2 Innovates innovation incubator gained momentum during 2014-2015 after its inaugural launch in 2013. Created and structured after venture capital startups, the initiative encourages Richland Two staff to develop new innovative practices which support our district framework – Learning, Character, Community and Joy – and aims to improve student learning opportunities and the overall education experience for our stakeholders. Our leadership believes that many teachers and staff members have great ideas that can bring positive change in Richland Two with the right mentoring, guidance and support.

R2 Innovates has created leaders from all segments of our organization and is building our capacity to prototype and scale initiatives that will have a lasting impact. We've developed a culture of innovation by allowing these leaders to try many solutions to solve complex problems, use data, and then scale successful projects across the district. Teams are provided with mentors, time to work on their ideas, time to collaborate with other teams, and financial backing.

PROJECTS FOR 2014-2015

- **Si Se Puede** - A program to improve communication between Latino families and school
- **Project CASTLE** - An initiative to connect students with mentors for passion-based projects
- **RecruIT** - A high school initiative to encourage girls to enroll in computer programming
- **PEP** - An initiative to prepare more students for gifted education classes
- **Making the Grade** - A middle school team effort to improve assessment methods
- **BACBONE** - An initiative to help alternative school students successfully transition back to their home schools

STRATEGIC PLAN

The Board of Trustees adopted the most recent five-year comprehensive update to the district's strategic plan in February 2012. All school and district level strategic plans are organized around four main areas: Academics, Climate, Employee Quality, and Community Involvement. Additionally, the district plan has a separate section related to finances. The plan also focuses on the superintendent's four square logic of Learning, Culture, Community, and Joy and incorporates areas of need and focus. This update is part of our continuous improvement efforts to ensure that resources and strategies are aligned with our district beliefs, vision, and mission. In addition to the five-year update, Richland Two also annually reviews and updates strategic plans at the district and school levels.

In February 2012, the AdvancedED Quality Assurance Review (QAR) team revisited Richland Two for the second five-year accreditation term. During the on-site QAR, team members visited eight schools and interviewed 478 stakeholders. The team also had access to review more than 1,400 documents comprised of the district's curriculum, technology, finance, and strategic plans along with compilations of students, schools, district enrollment, demographics, test scores and other data. The QAR team provided commendations and required actions. Once again, "without reservation" Richland Two was approved for another five-year accreditation term. The district will be up for accreditation again during the 2016-2017 school year.

BUILDING PLAN

Richland Two has been one of the fastest growing school districts in the state for well over the past 15 years. To address this growth, the Board of Trustees annually updates a 10-Year Facility Plan. As part of that plan, in November 2008, voters approved a \$306 million bond referendum which covered the cost of several projects, including:

1. Construction of four elementary schools: Langford Elementary School opened in August 2010 followed by Catawba Trail Elementary School in 2011. In August 2014, Lake Carolina Elementary School – Upper Campus opened and serves children in grades 3-5. The district also closed on the purchase of property off Trenholm Road Extension for Elementary 20 and continued working with contractors on the design of the new school.
2. Construction of one middle school: Muller Road Middle School opened in August 2011.
3. Construction of one high school: Westwood High School opened in August 2012. District Stadium #3 was constructed and is located on Westwood's campus.
4. Several additions and renovations were also completed with these monies that included Killian and Bookman Road Elementary schools as well as improvements to Richland Northeast and Ridge View High schools.
5. In September 2012, the School Board provided funding for a districtwide student educational center and renovation of the existing District Office. The Richland Two Institute of Innovation, R2i2, will be opening in August 2016. High school students from any of Richland Two's five high schools will be eligible to participate in programming at R2i2. With the schools' initial focus areas of Advanced Engineering, Advanced IT, Advance Hospitality Arts, Supply Chain Logistics, Advanced Manufacturing, and Managerial Business students will be able to develop a keen sense of what it takes to succeed in college, life, and the business world all while learning to be innovators that will shape our future.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Honorable Calvin "Chip" Jackson, *Chair*

The Honorable James Manning, *Vice Chair*

The Honorable Susan Brill, *Secretary*

The Honorable Cheryl Caution-Parker

The Honorable Monica Elkins-Johnson

The Honorable Amelia B. McKie

The Honorable Craig Plank

MISSION STATEMENT

In partnership with our community, Richland School District Two prepares all students for success by providing meaningful, challenging, and engaging learning experiences.

**Department of Communications and
Strategic Partnerships**

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