

Superintendent's Report

Dr. Akil E. Ross, Sr.

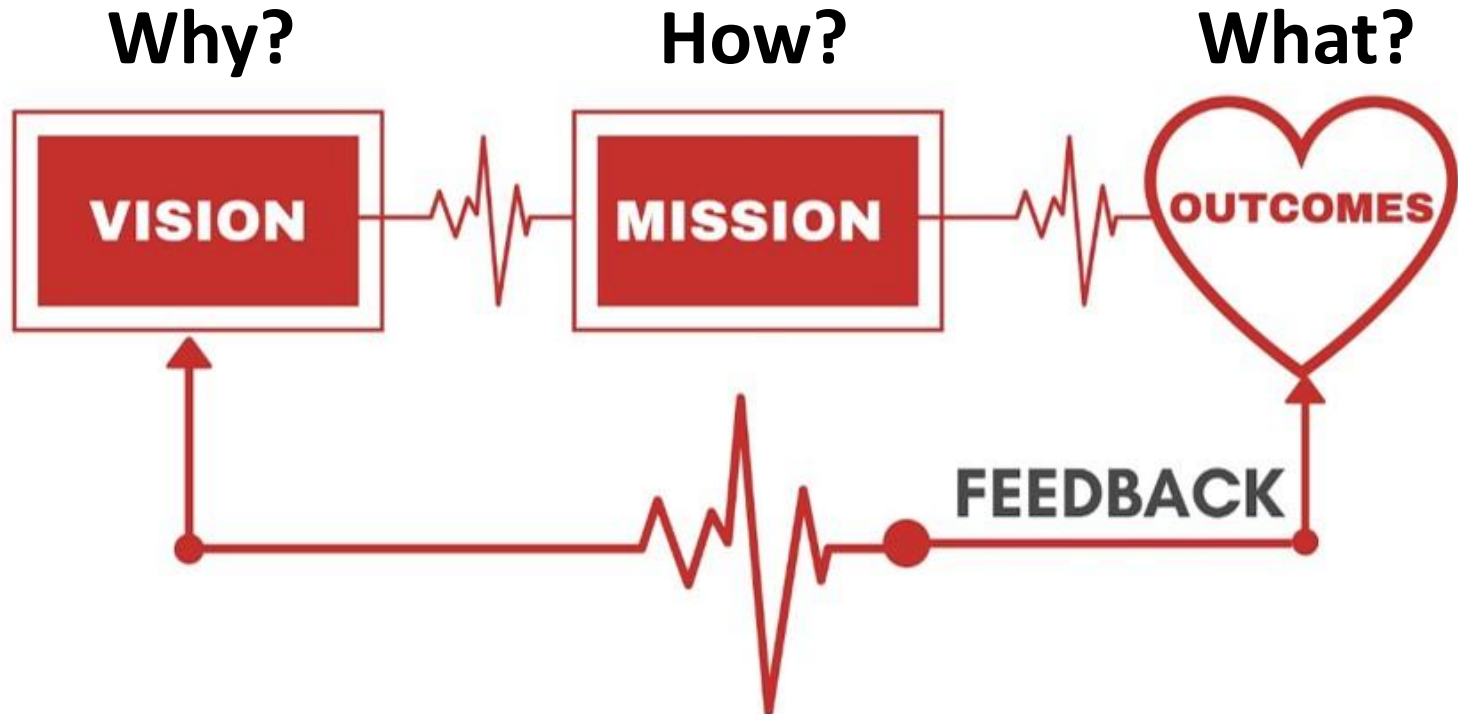
Superintendent

School District Five of Lexington and
Richland Counties

February 7, 2022



We Are a System



System – A group of units so combined as to **form a whole and to operate in unison**

Source: Merriam Webster Dictionary



**"We and Grow
Our Students!"**

Our Mission

The mission of School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties, in partnership with our stakeholders, is to prepare all students to be college and career ready by providing a challenging curriculum in a safe, secure, diverse, and equitable learning environment focused on academic, social, and emotional growth and development.

Our Mission

The mission of School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties, in partnership with our stakeholders, is to prepare all students to be college and career ready by providing a challenging curriculum in a **safe**, secure, diverse, and equitable **learning environment** focused on academic, social, and emotional growth and development.

Safety & Security

Addressing Sexual Harrassment in Schools

TITLE IX COMPLIANCE

School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties is committed to providing equal access to educational and employment opportunities regardless of race, color, religion, national origin, disability, pregnancy, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity status, spousal affiliation, or any other protected characteristic, as may be required by law. As required by Title IX and its implementing regulations, 106.8(b)(2)(i), School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties does not discriminate on the basis of sex in its educational programs and activities.

In addition, the District is committed to providing a work and student environment that is free of sexual harassment and will not tolerate sexual harassment activity by any District employee, substitute employee, student, or third party. We will act quickly and impartially to address claims of sexual harassment and discrimination and remedy the discriminatory effects of inappropriate acts of discrimination. Under Title IX, discrimination on the basis of sex can include sexual harassment, which is defined as conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:

An employee of the District conditioning the provision of aid, benefit, or service of the District on participation is unwelcome conduct;

- Unwelcome conduct that a reasonable person would determine to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the District's education program or activity;
- Sexual assault, dating violence, domestic violence, or stalking, as defined by applicable law.

Safety & Security

Dr. Tamara D. Turner, Chief Human Resources Officer, Title IX Coordinator (**Employees**)

Ms. Kelly Brown, Student Services Officer, Title IX Coordinator (**Students**)

tturner@lexrich5.org

kcbrown@lexrich5.org

BOARD POLICIES

[Title IX Policy - Employees \(GBAB\)](#)

[Title IX Policy - Students \(JIA\)](#)

NOTICE OF NON DISCRIMINATION

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Classroom Mitigations

School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties is developing a teacher support pilot to address academic and behavioral issues in secondary schools. This pilot will use the D5 COVID-19 mitigations framework to support the classroom teacher with layered supports and student interventions from the school and district administration.

NO
Interventions
Needed

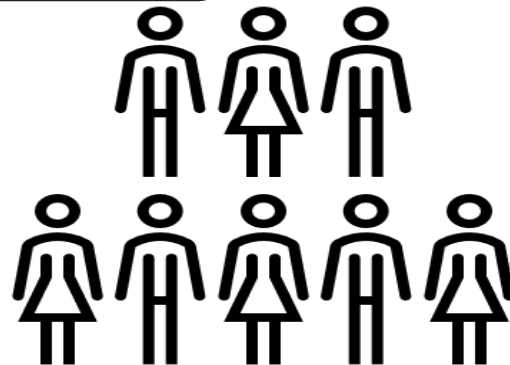
Teacher
Interventions
Needed

School
Interventions
Needed

District
Interventions
Needed



Teacher



Students

The NEST

The NEST at IHS

Children will meet our expectations when we meet their needs

Vision - To provide an alternative instructional opportunity that meets the social, mental, and behavioral needs of students within the traditional school setting.

Mission - The NEST at IHS will use restorative and trauma-informed practices to address the root causes of negative behavior while reducing suspensions and expulsions and increasing academic engagement, positive student behaviors, and school climate.

The NEST

Intended Outcomes -

Stronger relationships between students and school staff

Small group instruction

Individualized instruction

Reduced suspensions and expulsions

Improved conflict resolution skills

Goals -

#1 - To increase instructional time by addressing the behaviors that interrupt teaching and learning

#2 - To improve student communication, problem solving, behavioral, and conflict management skills

#3 - To create alternatives to suspensions and expulsions while addressing the underlying challenges that create negative behaviors

Virtual Parent & Community Town Hall

February 8, 2022
6:00 PM

Superintendent Dr. Akil E. Ross, Sr.
will share new safety measures being
implemented at Irmo High School and
seek community input.







Test To Stay



What is Test to Stay?

Test to Stay is an option K-12 schools can use to, in many cases, safely avoid quarantine and keep students in the classroom after exposure to someone infected with COVID-19. In-person instruction gives students the best learning opportunity. Test to Stay is based on schools and/or parents using rapid test kits to test students and staff.

While Test to Stay is a helpful tool, it is not a substitute for vaccination of eligible students and staff, wearing masks or physical distancing.

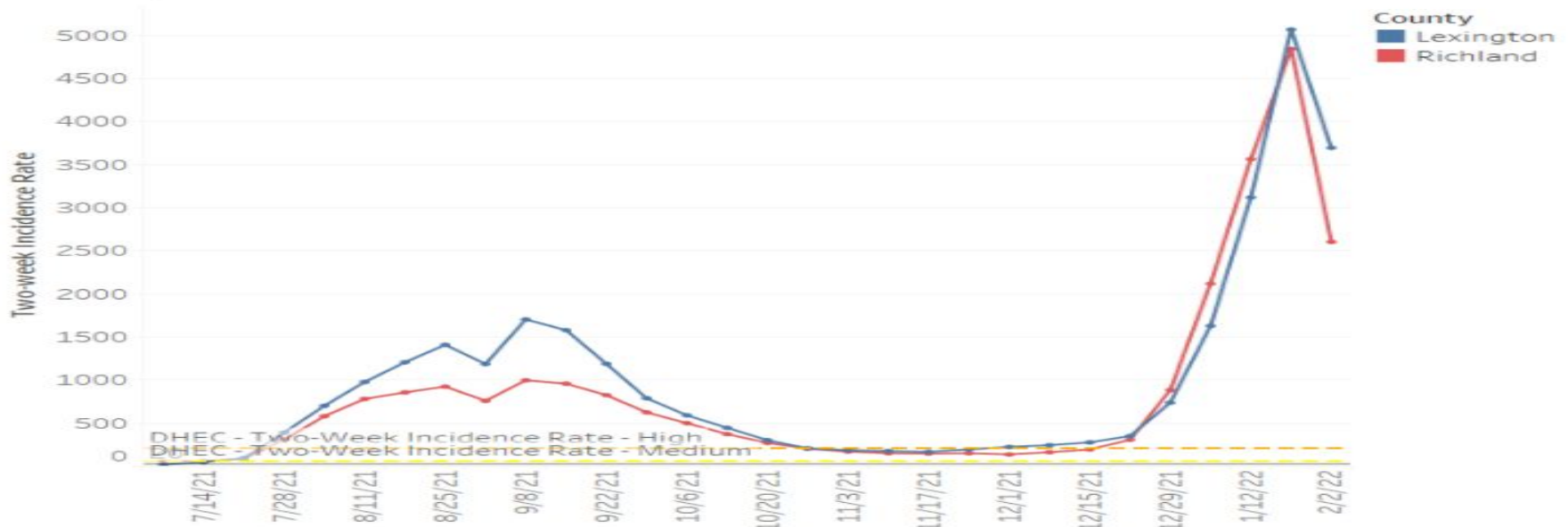


bit.ly/DHECTestToStay

COVID UPDATES

Two-Week Incidence Rates Since July 1

Note: The Two-Week Incidence Rate is one of three factors used by DHEC to determine the County Risk Level. The County Risk Level helps determine our Mitigation Levels. A High Two-Week Incidence Rate is not a guarantee of a High Risk Level or an Orange Mitigation Level, but it is a key indicator.





COVID-19 DASHBOARD



1 2 3 4 5

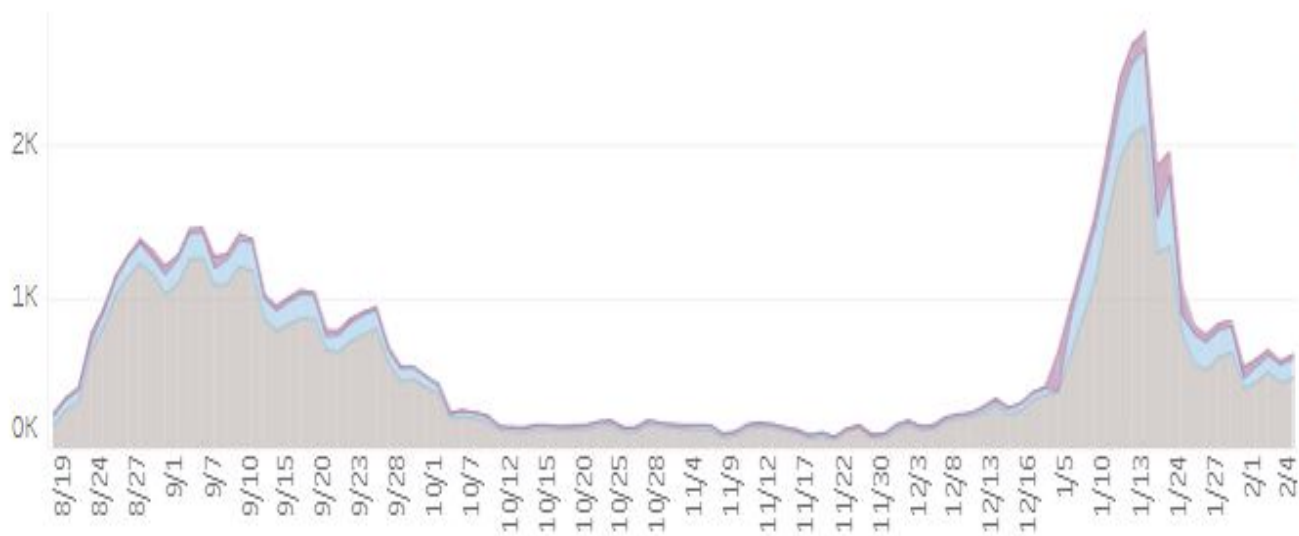
Student Information

School

(All) ▾

Category

- New Positive Cases
- Isolated Count
- Quarantined Count



New Educator Retention Incentive

**Direct Payment to
Employees**

Or

**Decrease Student
Loan Debt**

**UP
TO \$2500**

**NEW EDUCATOR
RETENTION
INCENTIVE**

School District Five of Lexington & Richland Counties is pleased to offer new educators with up to two years of prior teaching experience a supplemental \$2500 bonus for up to three full school years.

This supplemental bonus is contingent on the educator being offered continued employment with the District.

The eligibility for this bonus concludes after a teacher has completed three full years of teaching.

HOW IS THIS PAID?

OR



DIRECT PAYMENT TO EMPLOYEE

THROUGH A PAYMENT TO THE EDUCATOR IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,000, DURING THE FIRST SEMESTER AND A PAYMENT OF \$1,500 DURING THE SECOND SEMESTER



DECREASE STUDENT LOAN DEBT

AS A TOTAL PAYMENT OF \$2,500 PAID BY THE DISTRICT DIRECTLY TO THEIR QUALIFYING STUDENT EDUCATION LOAN



APPLY TODAY!
LEXRICH5.ORG/APPLY

**District
Five** OF LEXINGTON &
RICHLAND COUNTIES

TEACHER RECRUITMENT/RETENTION

Recruitment:

- 326 - Total Certified Applicants for 2022-2023 vacancies as of Friday, February 4, 2023
- D5 Recruiters have visited 13 in-person and virtual recruitment events at colleges, universities, and conferences
- District principals have participated with the Office of Human Resources in 15 virtual recruitment events.
- School-level open-house recruitment events for potential candidates are being hosted. To date, 10 schools have hosted events with positive feedback and attendance.
- 23 early hire offers made for 2022-23 as of the current board meeting

Retention:

- In an effort to retain current employees, HR has personally reached out to 96 current D5 employees who would qualify for NERI if they returned next year.
- The internal transfer window for employees is open. This may allow the district to retain current employees who are seeking opportunities at other schools. There are currently 314 requests for internal transfer opportunities. Principals are actively interviewing internal applicants as vacancies become available.

ESSER Update

ESSER Fund Information

Home > Resources > ESSER Fund Information

- > ESSER Funds Information
- > D5 ESSER I Funds
- + D5 ESSER II Funds
- > D5 ESSER III Funds
- > 2020-2021 Reentry Plan
- > Phases of Reentry
- > SCDE General ESSER Information
- > SCDE ESSR FAQ

Between 2020 and March 2021, Congress passed three stimulus bills providing nearly \$190.5 billion to the Elementary and Secondary Emergency Education Relief (ESSER) Fund. These funds are aimed at addressing the impact that COVID-19 has had on elementary and secondary schools nationwide.

States receive funds based on the same proportion that each state receives under the [Elementary and Secondary Education Act \(ESEA\) Title-IA](#). School districts in South Carolina will receive a portion of the funds based on the number of Title I students, or students in poverty, they have.

This webpage will be updated as information becomes available.



ESSER Link:

<https://www.lexrich5.org/Domain/5894>

ESSER Funds Information

ESSER I


On March 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act was signed into law. As part of the CARES Act, Congress set aside approximately \$13.2 billion of the \$30.75 billion allotted to the Education Stabilization Fund for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) Fund.

The US Department of Education awarded these grants to state educational agencies (SEAs) for the purpose of providing local educational agencies (LEAs) with emergency relief funds to address the impact that COVID-19 has had, and continues to have, on elementary and secondary schools across the nation.

- South Carolina received \$216,311,158 in ESSER funds from the CARES Act, of which 90 percent (\$194,680,042) will flow through to school districts with amounts determined in proportion to the amount of Title I, Part A funds they received in Summer 2019 from funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The remaining funds will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19.
- Lexington-Richland School District Five received \$1,629,882.

ESSER II

On December 27, 2020, the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSA) was signed into law. The US Department of Education is providing an additional \$54.3 billion for the Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief Fund (ESSER II Fund).

- South Carolina will receive \$940,420,782 in ESSER II funds from the Act, of which 90 percent (\$846,378,704) will flow through to school districts with amounts determined in proportion to the amount of Title I, Part A funds they received in Summer 2020 from funds under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The remaining funds (\$94,042,078) will be used for state-level activities to address issues caused by COVID-19.
 - Lexington-Richland School District Five will receive \$6,679,819. Click [here](#)  to view a April 26, 2021 report to the school board on ESSER Funds, including details on ESSER II spending allocations.
-

ESSER III

South Carolina schools will get additional federal coronavirus relief funds from the \$1.9 trillion federal stimulus package signed into law in March. This is the third round of funding schools across the country will receive from the federal Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief program.

School districts in South Carolina will receive a portion of the funds based on the number of Title I students, or students in poverty, they have. More information about ESSER III Funds is forthcoming.

**This information is from the SC Department of Education website*

Board Policy KEC

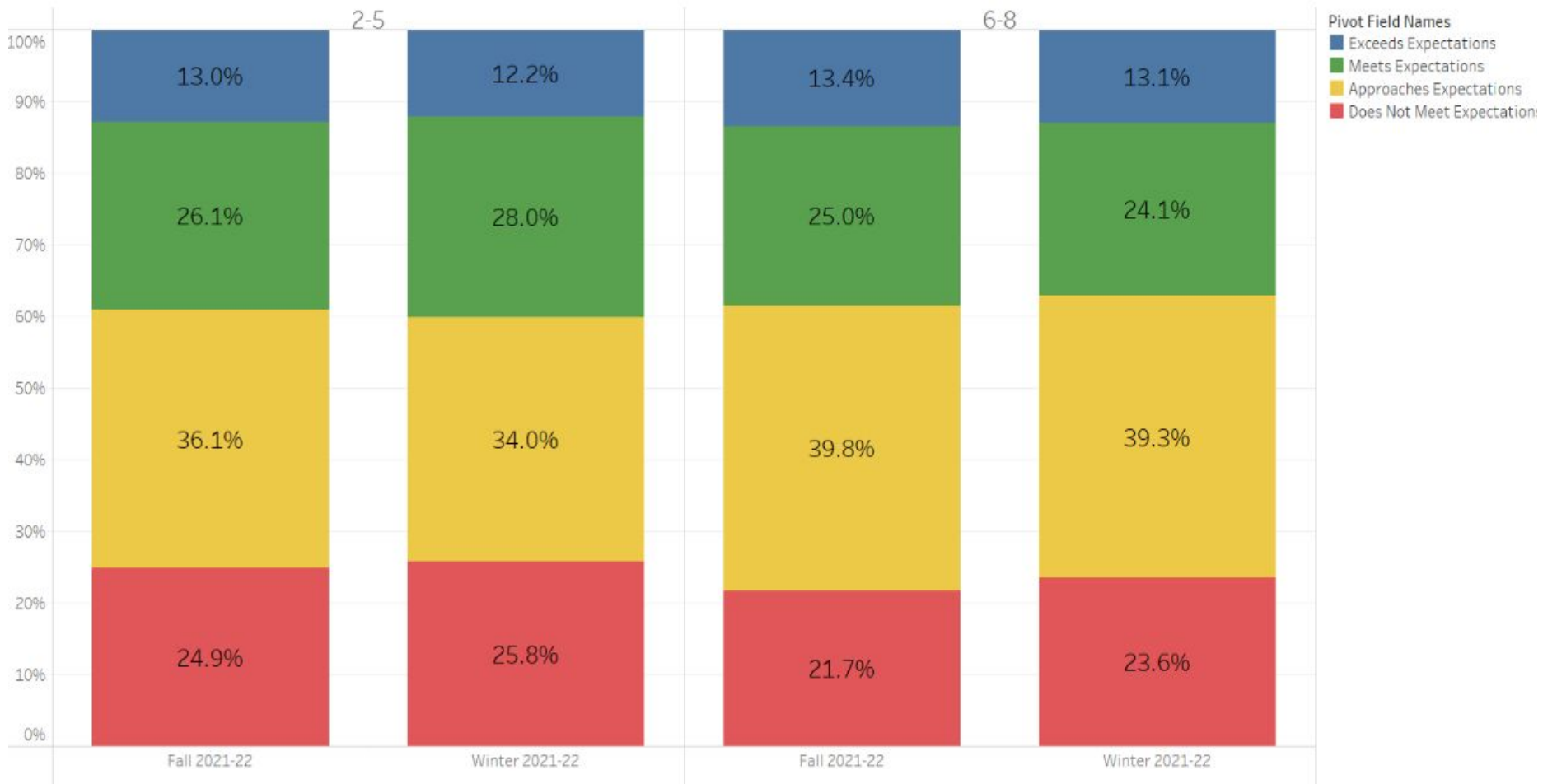
There are policies and procedures in place regarding the removal of Instructional Resources in our schools. School Board Policy KEC addresses public concerns and complaints about instructional resources. This policy ensures that District Five is in compliance with the *Island Trees School District v. Pico* Supreme Court decision where Justice Brennan wrote for the majority opinion that “local school boards may not remove books from school libraries simply because they dislike the ideas contained in those books and seek by their removal to ‘prescribe what shall be orthodox in politics, nationalism, religion, or other matters of opinion.’”

A parent or citizen must complete the “Citizen's Request for Review of Education Materials” form (KEC-E) and school and district level review committees will review the complaint in accordance with approved administrative rule KEC-R.

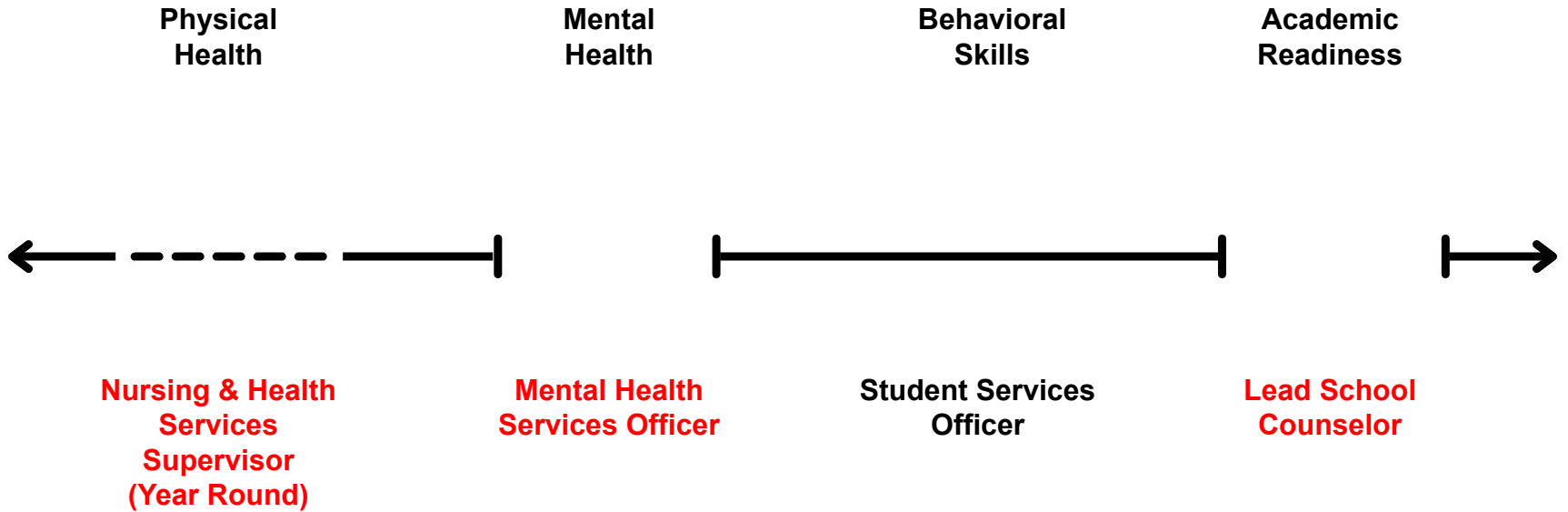
HOW ARE THE CHILDREN? Academic Progress

Winter MAP 2021	Grades 2-5	Grades 6-8
Percent projected to be Meets or Exceeds Expectations on SC READY	40.2%	37.1%
Percent projected to be Approaches, Meets, or Exceeds Expectations on SC READY (we get points for all three on the report card rating)	74.2%	76.4%
Percent projected to be Approaches or Does Not Meet Expectations on SC READY	59.8%	62.9%
Percent projected to be Does Not Meet Expectations on SC READY	25.8%	23.6%

MAP Growth Reading - Projected Proficiency on SC READY



Addressing the needs of the Social, Emotional and Academic Whole Child Continuum





1st J BS

INITIATIVE

Career opportunities available through the District for Students:

- Facilities
- Transportation
- Administrative
- Student Nutrition



Lexington-Richland 5 launches jobs program for students, hopes to alleviate staffing shortages



LIVE.LOCAL.NOW.

SCHOOLS OFFERING STUDENT PART-TIME JOBS
LEXINGTON-RICHLAND SCHOOL DISTRICT FIVE

7:02 | 54°
WIS NEWS 10

WIS NEWS 10
LIVE LOCAL NOW
DOWNLOAD THE
WIS NEWS APP

ON WISTV.COM

and karate lessons for kids learning from home

[STREET SQUAD IRMO](#)[STREET SQUAD LEXINGTON](#)[STREET SQUAD ORANGEBURG](#)[STREET SQUAD SUMTER](#)

Lexington-Richland Five begins First Jobs Initiative to fill staff vacancies



How are the children? Student Advisory Report

- Mental Health
 - Students reported the need to have mental health services prior to incidents or tragedies
 - Students want to build relationships with these professionals before they need to work through tough issues
- Choice
 - Students suggested that the District investigate providing transportation throughout the geographic area for Choice. For example, providing a shuttle from Irmo to Chapin or Dutch Fork
- Technology
 - Increase the Wifi Speed and Hot spots in the buildings

How are the children? Student Advisory Report

- COVID-19
 - Consistency in COVID mitigation protocols among all schools
- School Counseling
 - Students ask that all schools expand on the best practices for providing students a roadmap to their post-secondary endeavors.
 - To include sharing National, State, Local scholarships, grants and school applications
 - Increased opportunities for student going into a career after high school

Providing for the needs of the Social, Emotional and Academic Whole Child Continuum



