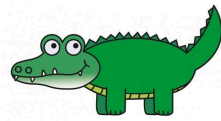


# 2025-2026 Annual Report to The Community

## Gateway Elementary School



### Dear Parents and Community Members,

It is my distinct privilege to share with you our annual Report to the Community for the 2025-26 school year. On behalf of our students, faculty, and staff, I would like to express our sincere gratitude for your continued support as we work together to provide our students with an exemplary learning environment. I would be remiss if I did not also share my appreciation for the overwhelming level of support that you have shown for our teachers and staff each school year! Our staff has again been literally showered with monthly snacks and drinks, positive emails, words of encouragement, and amazing PTA-sponsored lunches, breakfasts, and coffee cart visits! The support from each of our stakeholders is a vital component in the successful attainment of our primary goal: ensuring that our Gators are well-equipped at the elementary level to become college and career ready as young adults.

Gateway's stakeholder support extends well beyond our classroom walls. Our community stakeholders provided essential resources to strengthen the social and emotional growth of our Gators when they leave our campus. For example, The Cliff's Valley and Cliff's Mountain Park outreach communities, along with many others, continue to provide holiday assistance to needy families, countless boxes of school supplies, and kid-friendly food items each week to assure that our students are well-fed over the weekends. Our wonderful Cliff's donors also funded T-shirts for every student, to celebrate our annual Student Appreciation Day! Additionally, Gateway's Annual Fall Festival was another amazing success! Gateway was able to "adopt" Slater Marietta Elementary School this fall. Our Gators presented them with a check from the festival proceeds to broaden our impact on the students in Greenville County. In addition to the fall fundraisers, our Gators participated in a "Boosterthon Fun Run" in the spring of 2026. As in true Gator fashion, our students exceeded our fundraiser goal on day one!

Gateway's PTA was truly dynamic in 2025-26! Our PTA ensured that every single Gator received a special Valentine surprise on Valentine's Day, showered our Gators with positivity on our "Student Appreciation Day", sponsored quarterly "Behavior Celebrations" to recognize exemplary student behavior, planned a fantastic week of "You've got a Friend in Me" luncheons, and celebrated our multicultural heritage and diversity with an International Day Expo. As you can see, Gateway continues to thrive because of the support of our PTA and major stakeholders, and we are so grateful to our wonderful Travelers Rest community.

In addition to ensuring that our Gators are provided with an educational atmosphere that promotes social and emotional growth, the academic progress of our Gators is equally important. As you know, Gateway again received an “EXCELLENT” overall rating on our 2024-2025 state report card! Excellent work deserves an excellent celebration, and that is exactly what we planned for our Gators! Our students, faculty, and staff enjoyed an ice cream celebration and a special cook-out that followed our field day with “Lunch on the Lawn” to recognize our accomplishments.

Achieving an “Excellent” rating is not an easy goal to attain, but one that we are committed to earning each school year. To achieve this goal, the faculty and staff of Gateway Elementary School continue to attend monthly professional development sessions to improve our professional knowledge to assure academic growth for all students. This includes professional development presented by our own staff members as well as national presenters! As a result, our staff continues to embed rich learning experiences into weekly lessons for our students.

During the 2025-26 school year, Gateway conducted a series of “Learning Walks” and “Instructional Rounds” throughout our building to fully assess how our students were performing in the classroom. These valuable exercises allowed our team to discuss learning trends at all levels and assure that we provide targeted, specific support for all students. After each Learning Walk, our team charts findings and opportunities for improvement that are then embedded into our professional development plan. Our progress is then monitored by our Instructional Rounds, and again charted to share findings with our staff. To support our in-house professional development, selected staff also completed the second and final phase of *LETRS* training. Gateway was thrilled to host Sandra Goff of *J Squared Math Consulting* for a full day of professional development!

In closing, I would like to again express our sincere appreciation for your support of Gateway Elementary School. This year has once again brought frequent reminders of how truly special it is to be a part of such a thriving and resilient community of stakeholders. Our school climate and academic goals that follow include an increase in the academic component, as our Gators surpassed the original goals in 2025! Together, with your continued support, we will continue to surpass our expectations.

### **Academic Goals**

- **Goal 1:** The percentage of students scoring Meets Expectations and Exceeds Expectations on SC READY ELA will increase from 77.6% (2025 results:85.2%) in 2024-2025 to a minimum of 79.6% in 2025-26.
- **Goal 2:** The percentage of students scoring Meets Expectations and Exceeds Expectations on SC READY Math will increase from 80.2% in 2024-2025 (2025 results:81%) to a minimum of 82.2% in 2025-26.

## School Climate

- **Goal 4:** Maintain at least 95.0% attendance rate for all students and all student subgroups from 2024 through 2029.
  - **Objective:** Continue to maintain at least 95.0% attendance rate for all students and all student subgroups for the 2026-2027 school year.

## Teacher and Administrator Quality

- **Goal 5:** Maintain 100% of teachers as highly qualified from 2024-2029.
  - **Objective:** Continue to meet qualification criteria for 100% of teachers in all areas of certification.

The school renewal plan includes elements required by the Early Childhood Development and Academic Assistance Act of 1993 (Act 135) and the Education Accountability Act of 1998 (EAA). We revise, monitor progress, and adjust our goals within the plan annually in collaboration with our school faculty and staff, and our SIC (School Improvement Council).

Lastly, I feel that it is only fitting to again share our core values and beliefs. Our values and beliefs are the core of who we are, what we do, and how we think and feel. Values and beliefs reflect what is important to us; they describe what we think about educating our children while continuing the focus of remembering that the hearts and minds of our children are of equal importance. Each school year, our staff revisits these guiding principles to assure that they truly reflect our current beliefs. We examine and align our instruction, curriculum, and assessment initiatives to meet the expectations of 21st Century learners. We think that it is important to include our values and beliefs in our annual report as they set the tone for all that we do and remind us of our purpose as educators.

## Beliefs

We believe...

- All students and staff should be valued and treated with respect, dignity, and equity.
- A physically and emotionally safe environment is essential to the learning process.
- Students should feel emotionally safe to make mistakes and build confidence.
- Positive behavior support for students, including Gateway's Essential 21 and Gateway's House system, is important.
- All children should have the opportunity to learn.
- All students and adults should be challenged to view life from different perspectives.
- Social-emotional learning, discipline, and self-respect should be modeled and reinforced at school.

- Family and community involvement in the learning process is an essential component for student success.
- Students should collaborate productively, communicate ideas, solve problems, and think critically and creatively while consistently reflecting on their own thinking and learning.
- Experiences through data-driven planning are crucial to ensure that students are engaged in a rigorous curriculum that challenges each student.
- Each member of our school community can be a successful lifelong learner.

## **Purpose**

The purpose of Gateway Elementary School is to educate, prepare, and empower our students to become productive members of society. We, as the Gateway community, will lead and seek opportunities for personal and professional growth so that we can prepare students for success. Our students will gain the skills and knowledge to effectively communicate by developing socially and emotionally. They will foster and acquire problem-solving skills by collaborating with others.

## **Mission**

Gateway Elementary School provides a diverse educational experience for each student. We develop, guide, empower, and mentor students to be confident, innovative, collaborative, and strategic thinkers. We provide our students with an atmosphere that models and teaches empathy and respect. We empower students with academic and social-emotional learning strategies so that they can be successful at Gateway and beyond. Gateway Elementary School partners with our students' families and the community to support our students in all areas. Our dedication to this mission propels our students to meet their potential.

## **Shared Vision**

The focus for our vision at Gateway Elementary School emphasizes the ability to recognize strengths within ourselves and in others. We provide meaningful experiences that empower students to analyze data, track their learning progress, and utilize critical thinking and technology as tools for learning.

Sincerely,

Susan Stublely, Principal

Betsy Steifle, SIC Chair