

Southside Junior High Accountability Profile

Expedited Review



Prepared by
Arkansas Department of Education
Charter School Office

February 2026

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- **Section 1: Abstract.....Pg. 3**
- **Section 2: School Summary..... Pg. 4**
 - *Background Information*
 - *Leadership Team*
- **Section 3: Student Enrollment Data.....Pg. 5**
 - *3-year Enrollment Data*
 - *3-year Special Populations*
- **Section 4: Academic Performance Data.....Pg. 6**
 - *School Letter Grade*
 - *Growth and Achievement*
 - *Graduation Rates*
- **Section 5: Financial SummaryPg. 8**
- **Section 6: Operational Performance SummaryPg. 8**
- **Section 7: Executive SummaryPg. 10**

Section 1: Abstract

Southside Junior High is a district conversion charter serving grades 7–9, opened in 2022, with a mission focused on high expectations, student ownership, and whole-child development within an innovative and supportive learning environment. The school enrolls 437 students, operating at approximately 73% of its enrollment cap of 600. The Expedited Review Accountability Profile presents a multi-year snapshot of enrollment, special populations, academic performance, governance practices, financial oversight, and continuous improvement systems.

Academic performance results show stable but not yet above-average outcomes. The school earned letter grades of C, C, and C across the past three accountability cycles, matching the state average each year. Growth and achievement comparisons using ATLAS measures are presented for English Language Arts, Math, and Science, including both all-student and lowest-quartile growth views. Internal improvement planning identifies science growth as a relative strength while flagging math performance and ELA writing as priority need areas supported by targeted interventions.

Financial and operational indicators reflect compliance and governance stability. ADE Finance reported no financial concerns or findings. The governing board conducts regular monthly meetings with documented oversight of budgets, financial reports, academic updates, personnel actions, and compliance requirements. District recruitment and retention planning and the school's detailed improvement plan demonstrate structured systems for staffing stability and instructional improvement

Section 2: School Summary

Background Information

Location	70 Scott Drive Southside, AR
Year Opened	2022
Grade Levels	7 th -9 th
Enrollment CAP	600
Charter Type	District Conversion
Mission Statement	Recognizing that the students are our central focus, and knowing that all students can learn and achieve, the mission of Southside Jr. High School is to develop and enhance the abilities of every student. We will create an environment of high expectations to advance the total school community, and we will develop a school climate in which both students and teachers feel ownership and pride. Our approach will be innovative, relative, and challenging in order to educate the whole child. Fulfilling this mission will ensure our students a promising transition into the 21st century.

Leadership Team

Personnel	Title	School / Organization	Email
Torey N. Hanna	School Principal	Southside Junior High	Torey.hanna@southsideschools.org
Eric Low	President	Board Member	Eric.low@southsideschools.org
Vonda Halford	Vice President	Board Member	Vonda.halford@southsideschools.org
Kyle Miller	Treasurer	Board Member	Kyle.miller@southsideschools.org
Tony May	Member	Board Member	Tony.may@southsideschools.org
Brad Cummings	Member	Board Member	Brad.cummings@southsideschools.org

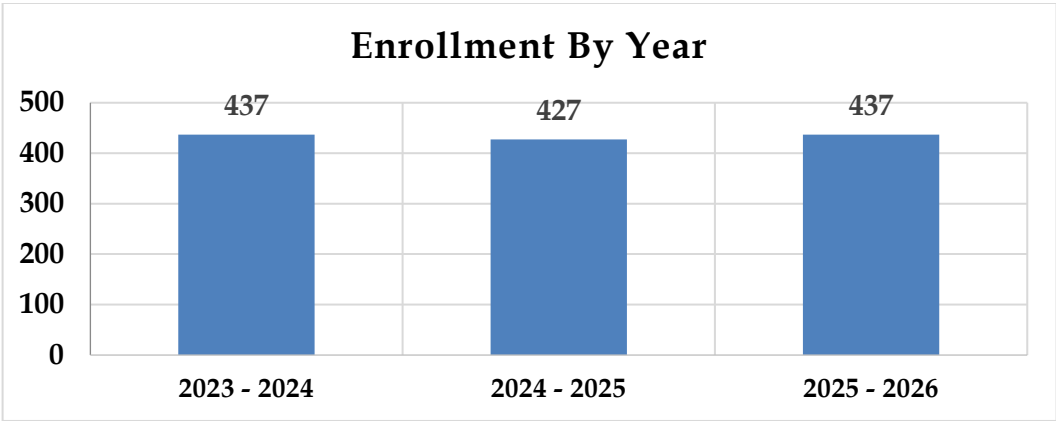
Section 3: Student Enrollment Data

Table 3.0 – 2025 – 2026 Enrollment

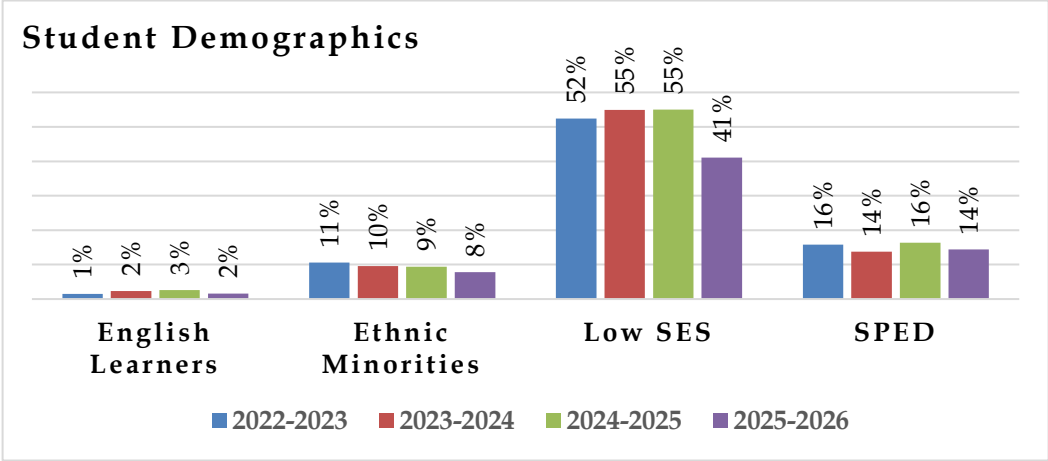
2025 – 2026 Enrollment	Enrollment Cap	Percent of Cap
437	600	72.83%

Graph 3.0 reports the past three years’ total enrollment count; **Graph 3.1** shows student demographics over the past three years. **Graph 3.2** provides the charter school’s enrollment percentages of students identified as part of a special population during the past three years. The data reported was captured from the Arkansas Department of Education’s Data Center and is current as of the October 2025 school census count.

Graph 3.0 - 3-year School Enrollment



Graph 3.1 - Percentage of Enrolled Students Considered Part of Special Populations **



** Students who are English language learners, those who receive a free or reduced lunch, and those with an IEP are included in the state’s definition of special populations.

Section 4: Academic Performance Data

In 2013, the Arkansas legislature passed A.C.A 6-15-2105, requiring the state to implement an A-F grading scale for schools as an indicator of a school’s overall academic health. **Table 4.0** shows the school’s past three years of letter grades compared to the state.

Table 4.0 - Letter Grade Comparison

School	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025
Southside Junior High	C	C	C
State average	C	C	C

Growth and Achievement

Growth scores show how many students met their individual growth goals on the end-of-year tests. It highlights how well a school helps all students make progress, no matter where they start.

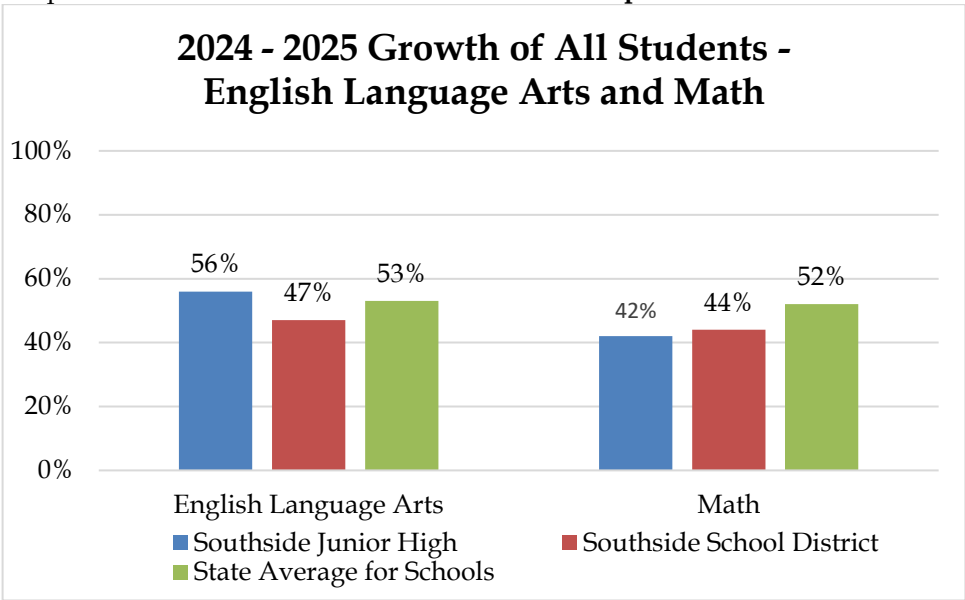
Achievement scores show the percentage of students who met or exceeded grade-level expectations on the annual statewide tests.

All public charter schools are responsible for educating students according to the standards set for Arkansas public schools. As of the 2024 – 2025 school year, the ATLAS assessment is being used to track both Growth and Achievement for schools.

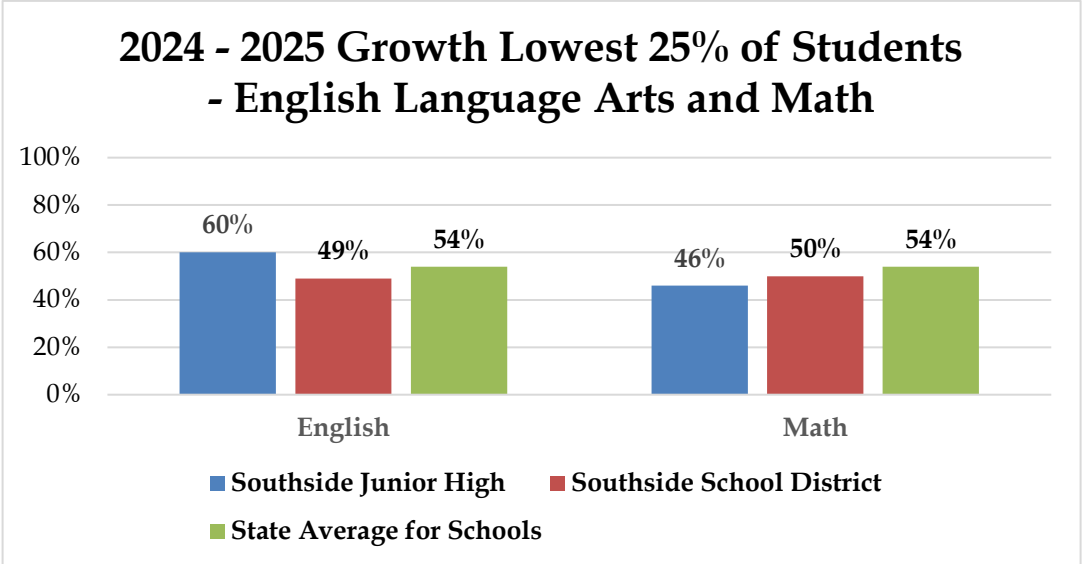
School Growth Comparison Data 2024 – 2025 school year

Graph 4.1.a compares growth of all students at the charter school in English Language Arts and Math with the state average. **Graph 4.1.b** compares growth of the charter school’s lowest 25% of students in English Language Arts and Math with the state average.

Graph 4.1.a – 2024 – 2025 All Students Growth Comparison



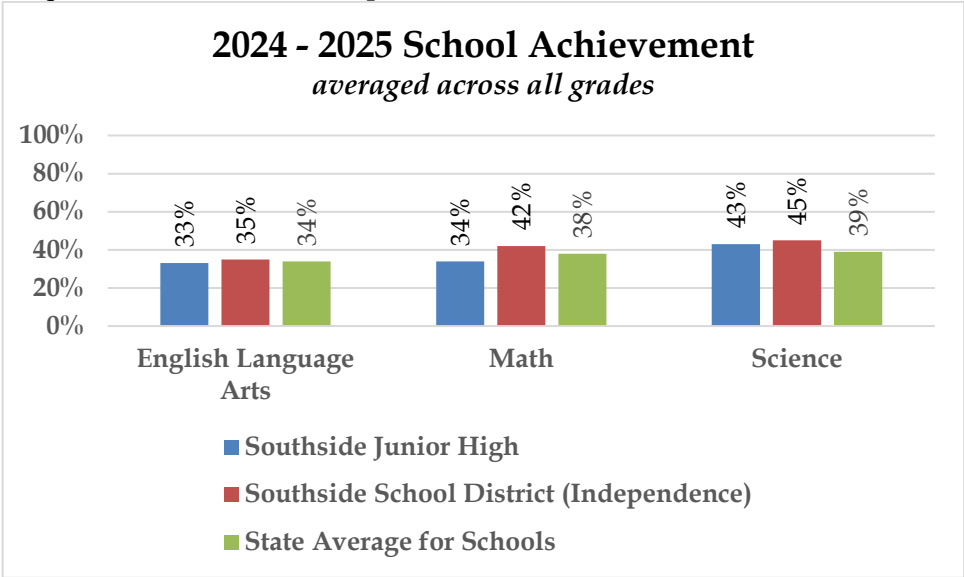
Graph 4.1.b - Lowest 25% Growth Comparison



School Achievement Comparison Data

Graph 4.1 presents proficiency (achievement) scores, averaged across all grades, for the charter school in English Language Arts, Math, and Science for the 2024 - 2025 school year compared to the state average.

Graph 4.1 - Achievement Comparison



Section 5: Financial Summary

Financial information was provided by the Arkansas Department of Education's Finance office in late October 2025. There were no financial concerns or findings for the school.

Section 6: Operational Performance Summary

This section reviews the charter school's compliance with applicable laws, enrollment and recruitment practices, and school improvement plans. The data assists in ensuring accountability and allows ADE to support continuous improvement in charter schools. Additionally, the information aids ADE's Charter School Office in deciding whether to recommend that the Charter Authorizing Panel renews the charter contract.

Charter School Board

Southside School District conducted regular monthly board meetings from July through November 2025, during which the Board consistently exercised oversight of district operations, finances, personnel, and academic programs.

Academic Data Review and Instructional Oversight

Across all reviewed meetings, the Board received regular principal reports from the Preschool, Elementary, Middle School, Junior High, and High School levels. These reports were presented at the July 14, August 11, September 22, October 13, and November 10, 2025, meetings, demonstrating a recurring structure for reviewing campus-level academic and operational updates. While the minutes do not reflect formal votes on academic performance data (such as assessment results), the inclusion of these reports indicates routine Board engagement with instructional progress and school-level information. Additionally, the September 22, 2025, meeting included a Board training and financial analysis presentation by Stephens, Inc., further supporting informed governance related to district performance and planning.

Budget Adoption and Financial Review

The Board fulfilled its statutory fiscal responsibilities through multiple formal actions. At the July 14, 2025, meeting, the Board adopted the proposed budget of expenditures with tax levy for Fiscal Year July 1, 2026, through June 30, 2027, approving all related election documents. This action represents the district's formal annual budget adoption. Subsequently, at the September 22, 2025, meeting, the Board approved the finalized 2025–2026 budget, indicating continued fiscal review and confirmation early in the school year. In addition to these major actions, the Board approved monthly financial reports at each meeting, reviewed large purchases, authorized fund transfers, and received ongoing financial updates from the superintendent and treasurer, demonstrating sustained fiscal oversight throughout the fall semester.

Ongoing Governance and Accountability

Beyond academics and finance, the Board addressed personnel actions, contracts, policy updates, calendar adoption, facility-related expenditures, and compliance items at each meeting. The November 10, 2025, meeting also included the Annual Report to the Public, reinforcing transparency and accountability to the community. Collectively, these meetings reflect a consistent pattern of Board engagement in instructional monitoring, fiscal stewardship, and organizational governance aligned with district and state expectations.

Staff Recruitment and Retention Plan

The Southside School District's Recruitment and Retention Plan outlines a structured, compliant approach to strengthening the educator pipeline across three focus areas: recruiting staff, retaining staff, and increasing student engagement in education-related pathways. The recruitment component is well-articulated, with measurable vacancy-fill targets and concrete annual actions such as intent-letter collection, job fair participation, and competency-based interviewing. Evidence sources are clearly defined, and the district reports meeting its hiring goals in the prior year, demonstrating effective implementation.

The retention section emphasizes creating a supportive professional environment through onboarding, mentoring by lead teachers, and quarterly satisfaction surveys. Evidence sources, including survey analysis and teacher-support documentation – align well with the actions taken, and early progress indicates intentional support for new educators.

Finally, the plan presents a focused student pipeline strategy centered on expanding the Educator Rising program by 15%. Action steps include establishing a completer pathway, conducting mock interviews with diverse participation, and leveraging minority educators as mentors. Baseline conditions and evidence measures are clearly identified, and the district reports notable improvements, including the first pathway completer and a 20% increase in student participation. Overall, the plan is strong in structure and compliance, with opportunities for increased specificity in retention metrics and diversity-related recruitment strategies.

School Improvement Plan

The Southside Junior High School Improvement Plan is grounded in a thoughtful analysis of student performance data, particularly from ATLAS Interim assessments. Strengths in science growth are highlighted, while specific gaps – math performance and ELA writing – serve as the basis for targeted instructional strategies. The plan outlines an extensive set of interventions, including high-quality curriculum implementation (My Perspectives, Reveal Math, AIMS), Essential Standards alignment, high-impact tutoring during advisory, attendance initiatives, and culture-building strategies designed to promote student ownership and engagement.

A notable strength of the plan is its structured PDSA framework, which clearly assigns responsibilities, timelines, and monitoring mechanisms for each initiative. Instructional leadership plays a central role in curriculum fidelity, PLC collaboration, data analysis, and intervention planning. The school also prioritizes literacy and reading culture by integrating library activities, elective courses, and structured reading supports.

The plan is rich in actions and implementation detail. Overall, the plan demonstrates a strong commitment to continuous improvement, data-driven decision-making, and strategic support for both students and teachers.

Section 7: Executive Summary

Academic Performance

Southside Junior High demonstrates stable academic performance aligned with state averages. The school received letter grades of C for three consecutive years, matching the statewide average rating. ATLAS growth and achievement comparisons are reported in English Language Arts, Math, and Science, including results for both all students and the lowest 25% subgroup. Graduation metrics are included in the framework, though the school primarily serves junior high grades, making growth and achievement measures more central indicators.

The School Improvement Plan is a key strength. It is grounded in ATLAS interim and performance data and identifies science growth as a relative strength while targeting math achievement and ELA writing for focused improvement. The plan includes aligned curriculum implementation (My Perspectives, Reveal Math, AIMS), essential standards alignment, high-impact tutoring during advisory, attendance supports, and student engagement strategies. A structured PDSA (Plan-Do-Study-Act) framework assigns responsibilities, timelines, and monitoring processes, supporting disciplined continuous improvement.

Financial Performance

Financial performance and oversight are sound and compliant. ADE Finance reported no financial concerns or findings for the school. Required annual fiscal actions were completed through formal board approvals, including proposed budgets, tax levy documents, finalized operating budgets, and annual financial reports within statutory timelines.

Board records reflect consistent fiscal oversight, including approval of monthly financial reports, review of significant expenditures, authorization of fund transfers, and receipt of financial updates from district leadership and financial advisors. Board training that included financial analysis further supports informed fiscal governance. No audit flags or fiscal risk indicators are identified in the expedited review profile.

Operational Performance

Operational performance is strong and well documented. The board held regular monthly meetings and demonstrated consistent oversight of academics, finance, personnel, policy, and facilities. Principal reports across school levels were routinely presented, and the Annual Report to the Public was delivered, reinforcing transparency and community accountability. Governance practices align with district and state expectations for charter oversight.

The district Recruitment and Retention Plan is structured and compliant, with measurable hiring targets, onboarding and mentoring systems, satisfaction surveys, and educator pipeline development through Educator Rising and pathway completion strategies. Reported outcomes include meeting hiring targets and increased student participation in educator pathways. The Junior High School Improvement Plan is detailed and implementation-focused, with clearly defined instructional, intervention, literacy, and monitoring structures, indicating mature operational capacity and continuous improvement readiness.