BACKGROUND: Ayr State High School is committed to its motto of “We strive for better things” in providing the best educational service possible to all students, with a commitment to continuous improvement. Current principal Craig Whittred was appointed in January 2012.

COMMENDATIONS:
- The Principal and school leaders have accepted personal responsibility for ensuring a safe, supportive and disciplined learning environment. They demonstrate a strong conviction that student engagement is key to improved student learning.
- The school has a small number of positively stated school wide expectations and appropriate behaviours. The expectations “Be safe; Be respectful and Achieve personal best” are visible throughout the school environment, continually communicated and are evident in the behaviour of students.
- “Personal best” is a key cultural focus and expectation and is encouraged by staff members handing out “Hawk Point” cards to recognize positive behaviours.
- The school leaders and all school staff demonstrate a strong level of respectful and caring relationships for all school community members.
- The implementation of Schoolwide Positive Behaviour System (SWPBS) has contributed to an improved school culture and positive learning environment.

AFFIRMATIONS:
- Students enrolling in the school receive a thorough induction to the school culture and behaviour expectations.
- The Parents and Citizens’ Association endorse and support the school Responsible Behaviour Plan for students.
- A range of data has been strategically used to identify areas for improvement, inform decision making and target resources to inform the teaching and learning cycle.
- The ongoing development of a school culture that acknowledges and celebrates culture, improvement and achievement.
- Clarity about how students are expected to behave is enhanced through teachers and supported by presentations at school assemblies, staff meetings, newsletters and school website.

RECOMMENDATIONS:
- Continue to engage the teaching team in the development and implementation of consistent effective pedagogical practices that enhance student learning outcomes.
- Continue to develop the implementation of SWPBS to embed practices and engage all school community members.
- Develop a common understanding of what constitutes high standards and clear expectations for behaviour, attendance and effort at the school. Ensure that these standards are consistently and rigorously reported upon.
- Explore strategic ways to further engage the wider school community including other educational sites to enhance relationships, student outcomes and the school’s positive profile.
- Continue to enhance the visibility of school expectations and processes.
- Include the implementation of a professional development program for teaching staff on enhancing their behavior management skills.
- Consider implementing an attendance benchmark for all student attendance. Implement a communication strategy to support this action that may include other school sites.