



CHOICES Charter School

P.O. Box 15386
Florence, SC 29506

Grades	6-11 Middle School	
Enrollment	40 Students	
Principal	Ralph Porter	843-664-8993
Superintendent	Dr. Rainey Knight	843-398-5100
Board Chair	Charles Govan	843-332-2288

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2012 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD



RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2012	At-Risk	At-Risk
2011	At-Risk	At-Risk
2010	At-Risk	At-Risk
2009	At-Risk	At-Risk
2008	At-Risk	At-Risk

DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

- Excellent – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Good – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Average – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Below Average – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- At-Risk – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE VISION

By 2020 all students will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete successfully in the global economy, participate in a democratic society and contribute positively as members of families and communities.

<http://ed.sc.gov>
<http://www.eoc.sc.gov>

Percent of Student PASS Records Matched for Purpose of Computing Growth Rating

Percent of students tested in 2011-12 whose 2010-11 test scores were located | 86.7%

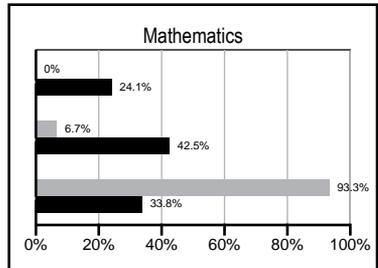
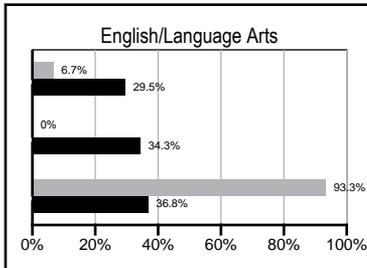
ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
2	5	45	4	2

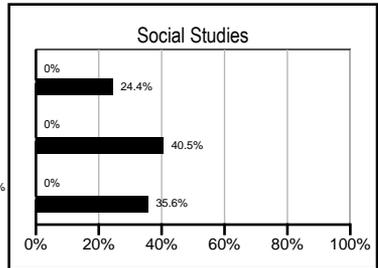
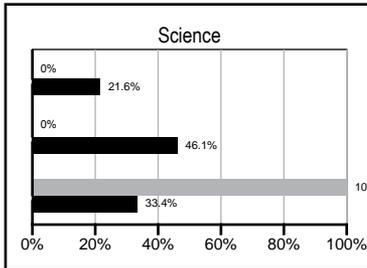
* Ratings are calculated with data available by 11/07/2012.

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)

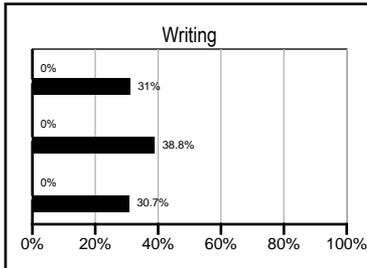
Exemplary
Met
Not Met



Exemplary
Met
Not Met



Exemplary
Met
Not Met



Our school
 Middle schools with Students Like Ours

* Middle schools with Students Like Ours are middle schools with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for the school.

Definition of Critical Terms

Exemplary	"Exemplary" means the student demonstrated exemplary performance in meeting the grade level standard.
Met	"Met" means the student met the grade level standard.
Not Met	"Not Met" means that the student did not meet the grade level standard.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A–Not Applicable | N/AV–Not Available | N/C–Not Collected | N/R–Not Reported | I/S–Insufficient Sample

End of Course Tests

Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our Middle School	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	N/A	96.8%
English 1	N/A	94.5%
Physical Science	N/A	N/A
US History and the Constitution	N/A	N/A
All Subjects	N/A	96.4%

School Profile

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
Students (n=40)				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	0.0%	No Change	21.5%	22.9%
Retention rate	2.3%	Up from 2.1%	1.0%	0.8%
Attendance rate	89.2%	Down from 91.0%	96.0%	96.2%
Served by gifted and talented program	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
With disabilities other than speech	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Older than usual for grade	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0%	Down from 6.3%	0.5%	0.5%
Annual dropout rate	4.8%	Up from 0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=3)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	N/A	N/A	60.5%	61.3%
Continuing contract teachers	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Teachers returning from previous year	N/A	N/A	84.4%	86.7%
Teacher attendance rate	N/R	N/R	95.1%	95.2%
Average teacher salary*	I/S	I/S	\$45,452	\$46,422
Professional development days/teacher	10.0 days	Up from 9.0 days	10.0 days	10.0 days
School				
Principal's years at school	10.0	Up from 9.0	5.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	14.0 to 1	Down from 14.7 to 1	22.4 to 1	22.0 to 1
Prime instructional time	N/R	N/R	89.4%	90.1%
Opportunities in the arts	Poor	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	No Change	98.2%	98.8%
Character development program	Average	Down from Excellent	Good	Good
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$8,399	Down 14.0%	\$7,335	\$7,245
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	74.0%	Up from 73.0%	61.8%	63.1%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	58.4%	Down from 61.4%	59.0%	60.9%

* Includes current year teachers contracted for 185 or more days.

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

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Report of Principal and School Improvement Council

"CHOICES" is in its 10th year as a charter school with charter agreements with both Florence District One and Darlington County. "CHOICES" target population is student's ages 12 yrs to 17yrs which have been expelled from school or dropped out. Our goal is to provide an education that will transition them to become life-long learners and to possibly return to regular traditional school if that is possible and appropriate. "CHOICES" provides a foundation for continuous learning through classroom instruction, service learning, project-based learning, and on-site construction training. Character training is the cornerstone for "CHOICES" as the students are given the opportunity to discover the greatest possible understanding of self. They are exposed to individual, personalized learning with a strong emphasis on work ethics and job skills. The mission of "CHOICES" Charter School is to provide a learning environment that links school to work experiences by making the right choices and staying in school. "CHOICES" originated by the retired Police Chief of Florence who saw a need for a school for divergent learners who were roaming the streets and demonstrating behavior problems that were getting them expelled from school. This is the only other alternative after expulsion other than the streets or incarceration. "CHOICES" is physically located in Darlington County adjacent to Florence County in the middle of 130 acres of forest on Black Creek. The property is owned by Central United Methodist Church and "CHOICES" actually leases 8 acres for one dollar per month for the actual school location. Student enrollment has remained small, beginning with 30 students and capping off at 45 students. There is one certified teacher and teacher's assistant per 15 students with additional assistance provided by retired professional people in the community. "CHOICES" has incorporated a Pre-GED component for students that cannot return to High School and will pursue the GED test when they turn 17yrs of age. "Choices" has adopted a progressive discipline system that ensures good communications between schools relative to student behavior.

Respectfully submitted by: Ralph Porter Executive Director and retired Police Chief.

Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percent satisfied with learning environment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	N/A	N/A	N/A

* Only students at the highest middle school grade level and their parents were included.

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ESEA/Federal Accountability Rating System

In July 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education was granted a waiver from several accountability requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This waiver allowed SC to replace the former pass/fail system with one that utilizes more of the statewide assessments already in place and combine these subject area results with graduation rate (in high schools) to determine if each school met the target or made progress toward the target. This analysis results in a letter grade for the school rather than the pass/fail system of previous years. For a detailed review of the matrix for each school and districts that determined the letter grade, please use the following link: <http://ed.sc.gov/data/esea/> or request this information from your child's district or school.

Overall Weighted Points Total	N/A
Overall Grade Conversion	I

Index Score	Grade	Description
90-100	A	Performance substantially exceeds the state's expectations.
80-89.9	B	Performance exceeds the state's expectations.
70-79.9	C	Performance meets the state's expectations.
60-69.9	D	Performance does not meet the state's expectations.
Less than 60	F	Performance is substantially below the state's expectations

Accountability Indicator for Title I Schools

CHOICES Charter School school has been designated as a:

- Title I Reward School for Performance - among the highest performing Title I schools in a given year.
- Title I Reward School for Progress – one of the schools with substantial progress in student subgroups.
- Title I Focus School – one of the schools with the highest average performance gap between subgroups.
- Title I Priority School – one of the 5% lowest performing Title I schools.
- Title I School – does not qualify as Reward, Focus or Priority School.
- Non-Title I School – therefore the designations above are not applicable.

Teacher Quality and Student Attendance

	Our District	State
Classes in low poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	2.6%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	5.1%

	Our School	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	100.0%	0.0%	No
Student attendance rate	89.2%	94.0%*	No

* Or greater than last year

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PASS Performance By Grade Level

	Grade	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Not Met	% Met	% Exemplary	% Met or Exemplary
English/Language Arts							
2011	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	7	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	7	12	100	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	8	11	100	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
2012	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	3	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	7	9	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	8	13	100	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
Mathematics							
2011	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	7	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	7	12	100	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	8	11	100	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
2012	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	3	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	7	9	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	8	13	100	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
Science							
2011	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	4	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	7	12	100	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	8	5	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
2012	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	2	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	7	9	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	8	7	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S

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PASS Performance By Grade Level

	Grade	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Not Met	% Met	% Exemplary	% Met or Exemplary
Social Studies							
2011	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	3	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	7	12	100	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	8	6	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
2012	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	1	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	7	9	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	8	6	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
Writing							
2011	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	8	13	100	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
2012	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	8	15	100	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S

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