

South Carolina Connections Academy

220 Stoneridge Dr.
Columbia, SC 29210



South Carolina State Report Card

State and federal laws require public schools to release report cards to the public each year. This year, the report card has been updated to reflect changes in reporting directed by the SC Education Oversight Committee. Schools will not be rated for state accountability purposes until Fall 2017 when the state will transition to a single accountability system. The following reports student performance in school year 2014-15.

| | | | |
|------------------------|---|------------------------|----------------------|
| Grades: | K-12 High | Principal: | Amanda Ebel |
| Enrollment: | 3,457 students | Superintendent: | Wayne Brazell, Ph.D. |
| School Phone: | 803-212-4712 | Board Chair: | Warren Engle |
| School Website: | http://www.connectionsacademy.com/south-carolina-virtual-school | | |



Profile of the SC Graduate

World Class Knowledge

- Rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness
- Multiple languages, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), arts and social sciences*

World Class Skills

- Creativity and innovation
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Communication, information, media and technology
- Knowing how to learn

Life and Career Characteristics

- Integrity
- Self-direction
- Global perspective
- Perseverance
- Work ethic
- Interpersonal skills

* 21st Century core courses in Social Sciences include History, Geography, Economics, Government and Civics.

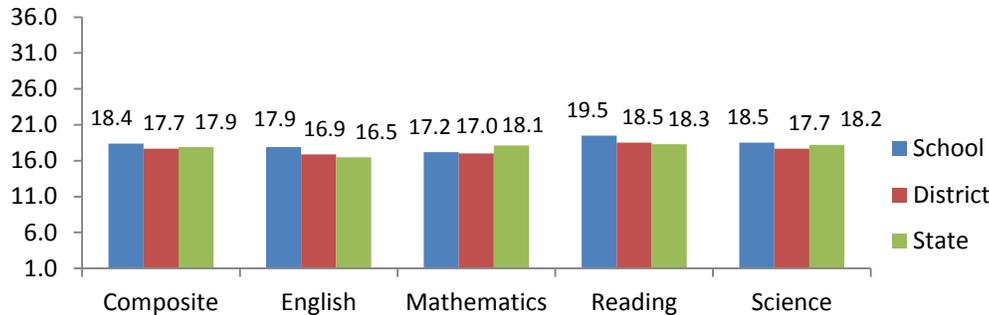
WORLD CLASS SKILLS & LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

Our school is helping all students develop the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the Graduate by ...

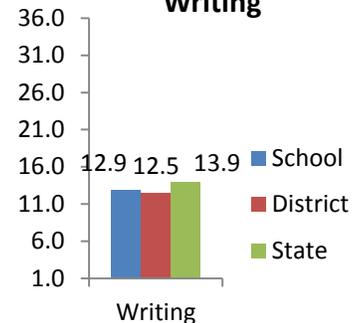
South Carolina Connections Academy (SCCA) is an AdvancED accredited, public virtual charter school that opened during the 2008-2009 school year and is authorized by the SC Public Charter School District. SCCA offers a premier online education to students in grades K-12 regardless of where they reside in the state. Our curriculum is aligned to the new South Carolina standards for ELA and Math and meets national and state standards while simultaneously meeting the personal needs of all of our students. Students progress through the program under the guidance of their Learning Coach (typically a parent or guardian) in conjunction with their highly qualified SC certified teachers. Regular interaction occurs via phone, e-mail, in person meetings and LiveLesson sessions. Student work is regularly submitted online for teacher review. Our user friendly Education Management System (EMS) includes; coursework, a daily planner, a grade book, attendance recorder, communication tools, a virtual library, message boards, and supplemental learning programs. The EMS provides all the necessary information needed to successfully learn anywhere with an internet connection. This unique system sets us apart from all other virtual charter schools. SCCA offers accelerated curriculum to Gifted and Talented students in grades 3 through 8 Science, Math, and Language Arts. These students participate in a Literature Study course using the Junior Great Books series. Teachers in our Special Education department serve students according to Individualized Education Plans. Students with 504 plans receive accommodations in the general education setting. Students requiring speech services participate in virtual speech sessions. Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Services are also provided through contracted, certified providers. Our high school program includes a variety of foreign language courses, Honors and Advanced Placement courses and electives in several career clusters. Some of our students are dual enrolled in local colleges or universities. Our graduation requirements are more rigorous than the state mandates. Notable college acceptances for SCCA students include: Wellesley College, Duke University, UCLA, Furman University, University of South Carolina and Clemson University. To create a sense of community, field trips and face-to-face learning experiences are held statewide throughout the school year. Over 125 opportunities were held during the 2014-2015 school year including museum, zoo and aquarium tours, a Geography and multiplication bee, college tours, a student arts showcase, hands on academic activities, a field day and both a Kindergarten graduation as well as a 12th grade graduation ceremony. Our dedicated faculty and staff continue to provide a personalized education to all students, helping them to master the knowledge and problem solving skills needed to achieve their college and career goals. Amanda Ebel, SCCA Executive Director Jennifer Bailey, SIC Chair

KNOWLEDGE

Average ACT Score Achieved by Students: English, Math, Reading, Science, Composite of all four tests, 2015



Average ACT Score Achieved by Students: Writing

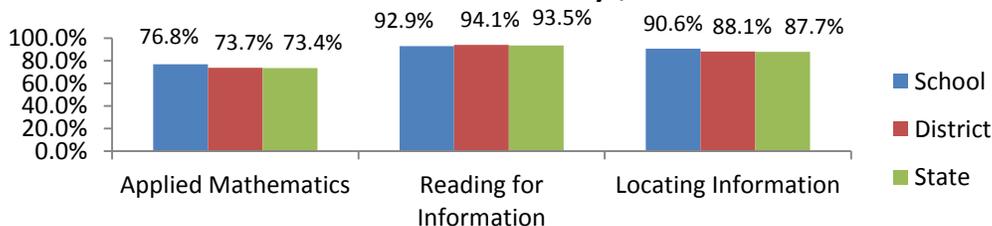


The ACT, a college readiness assessment, was given to every South Carolina 11th grader in 2015 with the exception of those eligible for alternate assessments. The ACT scores range from 0 to 36. The district and state averages are included for comparison. State averages for ACT data are based on regular public schools and do not include private schools in the state.

| Percent of Students Meeting ACT College-Ready Benchmarks, 2015 | | | | |
|--|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|----------------|
| English Benchmark Score: 18 | Math Benchmark Score: 22 | Reading Benchmark Score: 22 | Science Benchmark Score: 23 | All 4 Subjects |
| 50.8 | 15.8 | 35.5 | 17.3 | 10.9 |

ACT benchmarks are scores on the ACT subject-area tests that represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing first-year college courses.

Percent of Students Meeting Platinum, Gold, or Silver Threshold on WorkKeys, 2015



ACT WorkKeys is a job skills assessment system measuring "real world" skills that employers believe are critical in the workplace. The assessment is given to every South Carolina 11th grader with the exception of those eligible for alternative assessments. The assessment consists of three subtests: Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information. Students can earn certificates at the Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze level on WorkKeys assessments.

The ACT is a registered trademark of ACT, Inc.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A-Not Applicable

N/AV-Not Available

N/C-Not Collected

N/R-Not Reported

I/S-Insufficient Sample

KNOWLEDGE

| SAT Performance | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Percent of Students Tested | Average Critical Reading Score | Average Math Score | Average Writing Score | Average Composite Score |
| 30.7 | 514 | 481 | 485 | 1479 |

The highest composite score on the SAT is a 2400. For each of the three sections of the test, the highest score is 800.

End of Course Tests

| Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on: | Our School | High Schools with Students Like Ours | State |
|---|------------|--------------------------------------|-------|
| Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2 | 78.8 | 83.9 | 85.7 |
| English 1 | 75.3 | 72.9 | 75.1 |
| Biology 1 | 69.2 | 82.2 | 77.8 |
| US History and the Constitution | 53.2 | 71.9 | 69.1 |
| All Subjects | 67.3 | 77.4 | 77.3 |

High Schools with Students Like Ours are high schools with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for the school.

OUTCOMES

| State Graduation Rate | |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| Four-Year | Five-Year |
| 80.3 | 82.0 |

| School Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate | | | |
|---|------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| 59.1 | 46.2 | 30.9 | 34.5 |

| School Five-Year Cohort Graduation Rate | | | |
|---|------|------|------|
| 2015 | 2014 | 2013 | 2012 |
| 54.3 | 39.2 | 38.3 | 41.6 |

| Percentage of Seniors Eligible for LIFE Scholarship | | |
|---|----------|-------|
| Our School | District | State |
| 30.2 | 29.6 | 42.2 |

| Percentage of Students from 2014 Graduating Class Enrolled in a two- or four-year college or technical college pursuing an associates degree, certificate, or diploma in Fall 2014 | | |
|--|----------|-------|
| Our School | District | State |
| 62.3 | 61.3 | 70.3 |

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OPPORTUNITIES**For students to meet the profile of the SC Graduate**

| | Our School | Change from Last Year | High Schools with students like ours |
|---|------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Students (n = 3,457) | | | |
| Percent of students participating in Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF; homeless, foster, or migrant students (poverty index) | 56.9 | Down from 63.5% | N/A |
| Attendance Rate | 100.0 | Up from 99.9% | 94.6 |
| With disabilities | 9.4 | Up from 8.9% | 11.3 |
| Out of school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses | 0.0 | No change | 1.8 |
| Percentage of students served by gifted and talented programs | 9.8 | Up from 9.5% | 26.0 |
| Enrolled in AP/IB programs | 9.1 | Down from 11.5% | 22.1 |
| Successful in AP/IB programs | 61.4 | Up from 47.5% | 53.2 |
| Career/tech students in co-curricular organizations | 0.0 | No change | 3.6 |
| Enrollment in career/technology courses | 3271 | Up from 685 | 1421 |
| Students participating in work-based experiences | 0.0 | No change | 7.7 |
| Number of seniors who have completed FAFSA forms | 107 | N/A | 337 |
| Percentage of seniors completing college applications | 39.4 | N/A | 67.8 |
| Number of students in dual enrollment courses | N/A | N/A | 62 |
| Success rate of students in dual enrollment courses | N/A | N/A | 87.9 |
| Annual dropout rate | 9.1 | Down from 10.6% | 1.8 |
| Dropout recovery rate | 8.0 | N/A | 5.1 |
| Percentage of students retained | 3.0 | Down from 3.1% | 2.4 |
| Teachers (n = 95) | | | |
| Percentage of teachers with advanced degrees | 65.3 | Up from 57.5% | 64.6 |
| Percentage of teachers on continuing contract | 90.5 | Up from 89.7% | 81.0 |
| Teachers returning from previous year | 90.5 | Up from 85.8% | 87.9 |
| Teacher attendance rate | 99.3 | Up from 94.6% | 95.4 |
| Average teacher salary* | \$37,532 | Up 2.0% | \$50,182 |
| Professional development days / teacher | 16.1 days | Up from 14.6 days | 13.1 days |
| Percentage of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers | 12.3 | Up from 2.9% | 1.5 |
| Percentage of teacher vacancies for more than 9 weeks | 0.0 | N/A | 0.4 |

Evaluations by Teachers, Students, and Parents**Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents**

| | Teachers | Students* | Parents* |
|--|----------|-----------|----------|
| Number of surveys returned | 69 | 82 | 187 |
| Percent satisfied with learning environment | 98.6 | 96.4 | 93.6 |
| Percent satisfied with social and physical environment | 87.2 | 97.3 | 80.3 |
| Percent satisfied with school-home relations | 97.2 | 97.6 | 94.6 |

* Only students in grade 11 and their parents were included.

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OPPORTUNITIES

| | Our School | Change from Last Year | High Schools with students like ours |
|--|-------------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------|
| School | | | |
| Principal's years at school | 2.0 | Up from 1.0 | 3.0 |
| Student-teacher ratio in core subjects | N/A | N/A | 29.1 to 1 |
| Prime instructional time | 99.2 | Up from 94.4% | 88.4 |
| Opportunities in the arts | Good | No change | Excellent |
| Opportunities in foreign languages | Excellent | N/A | Poor |
| Dual enrollment courses offered | N/A | N/A | 10.0 |
| Are online or blended (50% online) courses offered | N/A | N/C | N/A |
| AdvancEd (SACS) accreditation | Yes | No change | Yes |
| Parents attending conferences | 94.1 | Down from 98.1% | 98.6 |
| Character development program | Fair | Down from Good | Good |
| Avg. Age of books/electronic media in the school library | N/A | N/A | 13.3 |
| Number of resources available per student in the school library media center | N/A | N/A | 19.3 |
| Bandwidth capacity per student | 50-100 Mbps | N/C | N/A |
| District-issued technology devices per teacher | 1.3 | N/C | 1.7 |
| Percent of classrooms with wireless access | 0-25% | N/C | N/A |
| District-issued learning devices per student | 1.0 | N/C | 0.7 |
| Dollars spent per pupil** | \$5,812 | Down 0.2% | \$7,651 |
| Percent of expenditures for instruction** | 49.3 | Up from 43.5% | 60.0 |
| Percent of expenditures for teachers' salaries** | 50.2 | Down from 85.2% | 62.5 |

* Includes current year teachers contracted for 190 days or more.

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

State Ratings History of School

| Year | Absolute Rating | Growth Rating |
|------|-----------------|---------------|
| 2014 | At-Risk | Average |
| 2013 | At-Risk | Below Average |
| 2012 | At-Risk | At-Risk |

Based on state law, schools will not be rated for state accountability purposes until Fall 2017.

Additional Resources

SC State Content Standards
[Family-Friendly Guides to the SC Content Standards](#)
[2014-15 Accountability Manual](#)
[Report Card Data Files](#)
[ESEA Data Files](#)

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