

South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics

401 Railroad Avenue,
Hartsville SC 29550



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: 11-12
Enrollment: 258
School Phone: 843-383-3900
School Website: www.scgssm.org

President: Dr. Murray W. Brockman
Board Chair: Dr. Leroy Davis



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

From its founding in 1988 by a visionary Act of the General Assembly, GSSM has served as a portal through which talented students from throughout South Carolina have embarked on a lifetime of exploration, discovery and growth. The mission of this unique school emphasizes developing the scientifically astute and ethically aware leaders needed for our expanding knowledge-based economy. Recognized as a leader in the state, GSSM is now concentrating on national prominence with a focus on the global nature of modern science and industry.

From the outset, GSSM students and alumni established a reputation for excellence and accomplishment. The General Assembly recognized the benefits provided by this excellent stream of leaders and authorized increasing the size and scope of our school. Since 2010, we have increased the Residential faculty, staff and student body by more than 200%. Our ground-breaking state-wide Accelerate Engineering Program is in its third year of pilot operation, and serves over one hundred students. The Blue Cross Blue Shield Economics and Finance Institute is broadening and sharpening our student's ability to think in economic and business terms about opportunities in high technology. Our Outreach programs are now state-wide in operation, tripled in size and expanded in scope.

GSSM students continue to perform at the highest levels, reflecting the individual talents of these remarkable young people as well as the unique opportunities offered by GSSM. The significant achievements of the students in residence in Hartsville (1966 average SAT, highest in the state; \$13.5 million in scholarship offers to 112 seniors) are crowned by their completion of a mentored individual research project at a research university or industrial laboratory in the US or internationally. This year GSSM students carried out research at the German Cancer Research Center, the Fraunhofer Institute for Experimental Software Engineering and the German Research Center for Artificial Intelligence, all in Germany, and at the Korean Advanced Institute for Science and Technology in South Korea. Typically, several students publish their work in peer-reviewed scholarly journals each year.

Appropriate emphasis on extracurricular activities for all students continues to build strong school spirit, with 68% of students participating in varsity athletics. Our volleyball, tennis and soccer teams are consistently ranked highly; both boys and girls soccer teams advanced to the state play-offs. Boys and girls cross country teams participated in the state championships, as did individual members of the swimming team. Overall, our athletic program ranks in the top 40 in the state for all schools. Additionally, students lead and direct more than 31 clubs and societies, involving 97% of students. Students serve their community and school by working 83 hours each year, supplementing instruction on ethics and character development. Notably, our students mentored members of the Hartsville Boys and Girls Club in math, and have created several charitable events. Perhaps best of all, students report great satisfaction from forming "friendships for life" at GSSM.

As expected, this combination of academic excellence, community commitment, character and hard work results in GSSM graduates being admitted to excellent colleges. While we encourage graduates to stay in state, and many do, each year sees admissions to some of the nation's most prestigious universities such as Yale, Columbia, Duke, the University of Pennsylvania, Wellesley, Vanderbilt, Carnegie-Mellon, the University of California at Los Angeles, the University of Southern California, and many other excellent schools.

GSSM's Outreach shares exemplary programs statewide to improve science achievement. We have expanded a concept initially sponsored by Google to a computer-based entrepreneurship camp for middle school students across the state. Our GO SciTech Program encouraged 8th, 9th and 10th graders to explore "real" science, math and computer. Sonoco has funded a remarkable program with Darlington County Schools, GSSM, Coker College and Yale University to enhance educational excellence at all levels in Hartsville, with special attention by GSSM to calculus, chemistry, molecular biology and environmental science.

We are eagerly planning to enhance this remarkable record. We have grown to maximum capacity residentially, while continuing to expand Accelerate Engineering and Outreach. Our new faculty and staff members are as amazing as our veterans, and we will continue to create new opportunities for our students, like international research, that have no comparison anywhere in the nation. GSSM will continue to be a flagship for education in South Carolina and, increasingly, the nation.

Murray W. Brockman, President

PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

DATA

Advanced Placement (AP) Pass Rate	83%
Graduates' College Freshman GPA (In-state Colleges)	3.57
SAT Average (High Verbal & Math) / (High Verbal, Math, & Writing)	1349 / 1997

AP TEST SCORE DISTRIBUTION

Score	5		4		3		2		1		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Students	44	13%	107	32%	116	34%	53	16%	19	5%	339	100%

COLLEGE FRESHMAN GPA

GPA	3.5-4.0		3.3-3.5		3.1-3.3		2.9-3.1		<2.9		Total	
	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%	#	%
Students	43	66%	5	8%	10	15%	1	2%	6	9%	65	100%

SAT SCORES

	Middle 50%		Range	
SAT Critical Reading	620	720	510	800
SAT Math	630	740	550	800

A Special Note on Performance

Every student at Governor's School completes a research course requirement that is a distinctive learning and maturing experience. Senior research begins with at least six full weeks of research in the summer following the junior year. Most of the students conduct their research at university or industrial research facilities under the mentorship of professional scientists or engineers. Currently, a special exchange program supports several research positions in Germany and South Korea. Students work with their research mentors and Governor's School advisors during the senior year to compile and analyze their research findings, prepare formal research papers, and present their work at a school-sponsored colloquium and at the SC Junior Academy of Science annual meeting.

END OF COURSE TESTS

N/A

Abbreviations for Missing Data

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

OPPORTUNITIES

	Our School	Change from Last Year	High Schools with students like ours
Students (n = 258)			
Percent of students eligible for financial aid for meals	20	Same	
Attendance Rate	98.2%	Up from 96.7	
Students in Residence	258	Up from 220	
With disabilities	0	Down from 1	
Out of school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0	Same	
Enrolled in AP programs	100%	Same	
Seniors Completing Science Research Project	100%	Same	
Community Service Hours per Student	83	Same	
Enrollment in career/technology courses	N/A	Same	
Graduating Attending College	100%	Same	
Number of seniors who have completed FAFSA forms	90	Up from 68	
Percentage of seniors completing college applications	100%	Same	
Seniors eligible for LIFE Scholarship	99%	Same	
Number of Seniors	113	Up from 95	
Total Scholarships offered	\$13,996,044	Down from \$16,464,691	
National Merit Semifinalists/Finalists	22/20	Up from 7/6	
Percentage retained	0	Same	
Teachers (n = 35)			
Percentage of teachers with advanced degrees	100%	Same	
Teachers with doctorates	80%	Down from 83	
Teachers returning from previous year	97%	Down from 100%	
Teacher attendance rate	99.2%	Down from 99.5%	
Average teacher salary*	\$67,578	Down from 68,172	
Professional development days/teacher	6	Same	
Years of Teaching Experience-middle 50%	12-20	Up from 9-20	
Percentage of teacher vacancies for more than 9 weeks	0	Same	

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

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

Evaluation of School Climate

EVALUATIONS BY STUDENTS, TEACHERS, AND PARENTS

	Students	Teachers	Parents
Number of surveys returned	132	35	67
Satisfied with learning environment	91.6%	97.2%	93.9%
Satisfied with social and physical environment	85.6%	100.0%	92.5%
Satisfied with school-home relations	93.1%	94.4%	86.4%

*Only 11th grade students and their parents were surveyed.

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OPPORTUNITIES

	Our School	Change from Last Year	High Schools with students like ours
School			
President's years at school	14	Up from 13	
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	8:1	Same	
Prime instructional time	97.1	Up from 96.2	
Opportunities in the arts	100%	Same	
Opportunities in foreign languages	4/100%	Same	
Number of dual enrollment courses offered	8	Up 2	
Number of online (live synchronous) Accelerate courses offered	7	New Program	
SACS accreditation	N/A	Same	
Parents attending conferences	68.2%	Up from 68.0%	
Character development program	Yes	Same	
Avg. age of books / electronic media in the school library	N/A	Same	
Number of resources available per student in the school library media center	N/A	Same	
Bandwidth capacity	400 mbps	Same	
Technology devices per teacher	4	Same	
Percent of classrooms with wireless access	100	Same	
Ratio of students to electronic learning devices	1:1	Same	
Dollars spent per pupil***	\$16,108.71	Up from \$15,896	
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	N/A	Same	
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	70.0%	Down from 70.9%	

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

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

*** Growth Phase-Costs for academic programs(base support) adjusted for normal high school comparison. Does not include residential life.

State Ratings History of School

Year	Absolte Rating	Growth Rating
2014	Excellent	Excellent
2013	Excellent	Excellent
2012	Excellent	Excellent

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](#)
[Data files](#)

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