

## Palmetto Scholars Academy

2415 Avenue F

North Charleston, SC 29483



# 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.

<b>Grades:</b>	6-12 High	<b>Principal:</b>	Tim Gott
<b>Enrollment:</b>	350 students	<b>Superintendent:</b>	Wayne Brazell, Ph.D.
<b>School Phone:</b>	843-300-4118	<b>Board Chair:</b>	Warren Engle
<b>School Website:</b>	<a href="http://www.palmettoscholarsacademy.org">http://www.palmettoscholarsacademy.org</a>		



### 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.

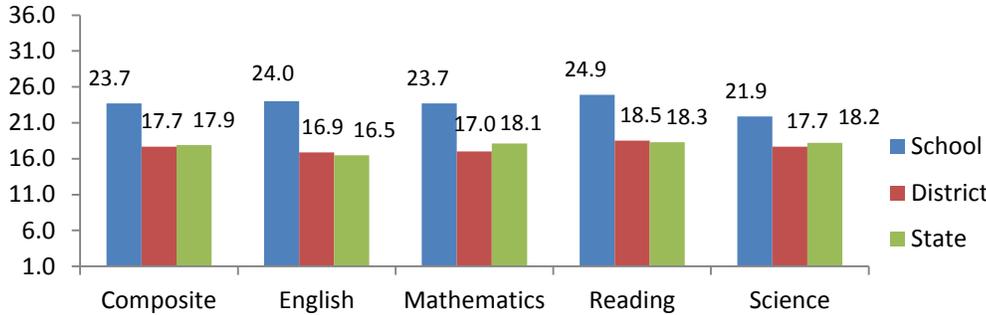
### WORLD CLASS SKILLS & LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

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

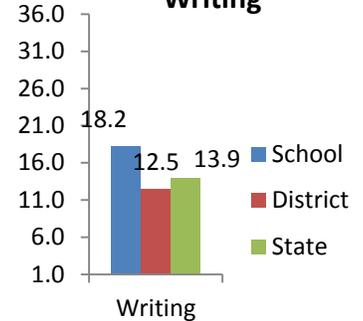
Palmetto Scholars Academy was founded in 2011 by a group of parents seeking a unique educational environment that would meet the needs of gifted students. This initiative led to a 6th – 8th grade charter school with a mission to provide a differentiated program designed to meet the educational needs of intellectually gifted learners, address their distinctive social and emotional needs, promote individual character development and instill a life-long love of learning. Likewise, the school desires to help our students to engage with leading innovative organizations in higher education, business, and science to empower them to make original and impactful contributions toward the elevation of South Carolina in the areas of education, commerce, arts, and science. Over the past 5 years, PSA has grown to be a full middle and high school serving 6th – 12th grades. It has established itself as one of the top schools in the state. A few of the highlights of our success include: • Receiving grades of A and 100 on federal and state assessments for the school • Showing an increase from 180 students to 350 students in 5 years • Establishing ourselves as state leaders in areas such as robotics, cyber-security, National History Day, Beta Club, and Odyssey of the Mind • Obtaining state and national recognition in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program for having two teams chosen to send their experiments to the International Space Station. These successes have provided the foundation for an outstanding educational experience. From the middle school up, we integrate differentiated strategies to promote depth and complexity in our curriculum and provide opportunities for acceleration and enrichment across all disciplines. At the high school level, we are utilizing dual-enrollment courses with Trident Technical College and the College of Charleston, AP courses, and honors courses so that our students can create college preparatory pathways in STEM and Arts & Humanities as they prepare for careers in those areas. By integrating best practices for educating high ability students throughout our curriculum, our students are more efficiently equipped with critical, creative, and collaborative skills necessary for success in today's society. One of the most critical components of our enriched curriculum is the research program which culminates in a Capstone Experience. Starting with sixth grade, our students take a series of research courses which move from exploration of multiple careers to actual production of a research project in at least one discipline consisting of a research paper and a product which could include an oral presentation, a visual or multi-media display, or a type of service. Just as important as our academic focus, PSA intentionally focuses on meeting the social and emotional needs of our students. We seek to create a safe place for all students as they navigate the multiple challenges of adolescence. Our staff strives to create positive relationships with every student in the classroom, in extracurricular opportunities, and through our house system. The house system is modeled after the British house

**KNOWLEDGE**

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



**Average ACT Score Achieved by Students: Writing**

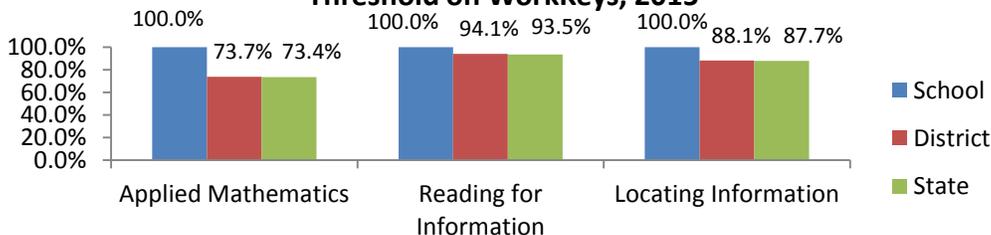


The ACT, a college readiness assessment, was given to every South Carolina 11th grader in 2015 with the exception of those eligible for alternate assessments. The ACT scores range from 0 to 36. The district and state averages are included for comparison. State averages for ACT data are based on regular 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
81.8	63.6	63.6	40.9	36.4

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
100.0	565	595	537	1698

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	96.7	88.8	85.7
English 1	98.7	81.1	75.1
Biology 1	94.0	88.5	77.8
US History and the Constitution	83.3	82.6	69.1
All Subjects	94.6	85.5	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
100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A

School Five-Year Cohort Graduation Rate			
2015	2014	2013	2012
N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

Percentage of Seniors Eligible for LIFE Scholarship		
Our School	District	State
35.3	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
N/A	N/A	N/A

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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
<b>Students (n = 350)</b>			
Percent of students participating in Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF; homeless, foster, or migrant students (poverty index)	36.6	Down from 43.2%	N/A
Attendance Rate	95.6	Down from 96.6%	95.1
With disabilities	0.3	Up from 0.0%	8.6
Out of school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.6	Up from 0.3%	1.2
Percentage of students served by gifted and talented programs	67.7	Up from 58.4%	36.5
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	65.8	Down from 66.7%	46.1
Successful in AP/IB programs	29.8	Down from 43.8%	57.2
Career/tech students in co-curricular organizations	0.0	N/A	0.0
Enrollment in career/technology courses	286	N/A	1358
Students participating in work-based experiences	0.0	N/A	2.5
Number of seniors who have completed FAFSA forms	5	N/A	207
Percentage of seniors completing college applications	N/A	N/A	81.8
Number of students in dual enrollment courses	18	N/A	49
Success rate of students in dual enrollment courses	100.0	N/A	90.7
Annual dropout rate	0.0	No change	1.2
Dropout recovery rate	N/A	N/A	4.2
Percentage of students retained	0.9	Down from 3.0%	1.8
<b>Teachers (n = 24)</b>			
Percentage of teachers with advanced degrees	41.7	Down from 45.5%	67.3
Percentage of teachers on continuing contract	58.3	Up from 40.9%	80.0
Teachers returning from previous year	61.4	Up from 61.1%	87.3
Teacher attendance rate	92.2	Down from 92.9%	94.9
Average teacher salary*	\$41,506	Down 0.4%	\$49,767
Professional development days / teacher	10.5 days	Up from 0.7 days	10.1 days
Percentage of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	23.3	Up from 9.4%	2.8
Percentage of teacher vacancies for more than 9 weeks	8.7	N/A	1.2

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

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	21	19	18
Percent satisfied with learning environment	90.5	84.2	83.4
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	85.7	79.0	83.3
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	100.0	89.5	66.7

\* 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
<b>School</b>			
Principal's years at school	1.0	Down from 2.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	8.7 to 1	Down from 20.8 to 1	30.2 to 1
Prime instructional time	86.8	Down from 89.1%	89.1
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No change	Excellent
Opportunities in foreign languages	Excellent	N/A	Poor
Dual enrollment courses offered	4.0	N/A	5.0
Are online or blended (50% online) courses offered	N/A	N/C	N/A
AdvancEd (SACS) accreditation	No	No change	Yes
Parents attending conferences	73.5	Up from 65.2%	98.4
Character development program	Fair	Down from Good	Good
Avg. Age of books/electronic media in the school library	N/A	N/A	12.3
Number of resources available per student in the school library media center	N/A	N/A	19.6
Bandwidth capacity per student	<25 Mbps	N/C	N/A
District-issued technology devices per teacher	1.0	N/C	1.8
Percent of classrooms with wireless access	76-100%	N/C	N/A
District-issued learning devices per student	0.5	N/C	2.3
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$7,090	Up 14.0%	\$7,384
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	51.1	Up from 46.7%	59.9
Percent of expenditures for teachers' salaries**	53.8	Up from 53.6%	60.9

\* 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	N/A	N/A
2013	N/A	N/A
2012	N/A	N/A

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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