



SC Annual School Report Card Summary

Alma Elementary
Cherokee
Grades: PK-5 Enrollment: 235
Principal: Kimberly F. Camp
Superintendent: Dr. William B. James
Board Chair: Mr. Billy Blackwell

PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on www.ed.sc.gov and www.eoc.sc.gov as well as school and school district websites. Printed versions are available from school districts upon request.

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING	PALMETTO GOLD/SILVER AWARD	AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
2008	Below Average	Below Average	TBD	Met	N/A
2007	Below Average	Below Average	Silver	Met	N/A
2006	Below Average	Average	Silver	Met	N/A

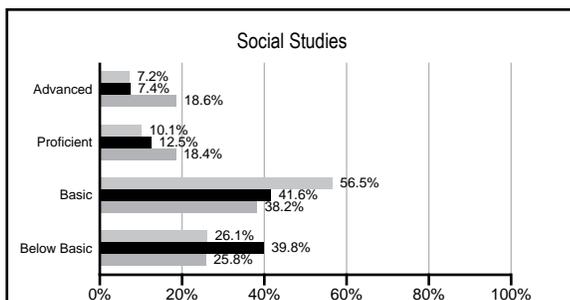
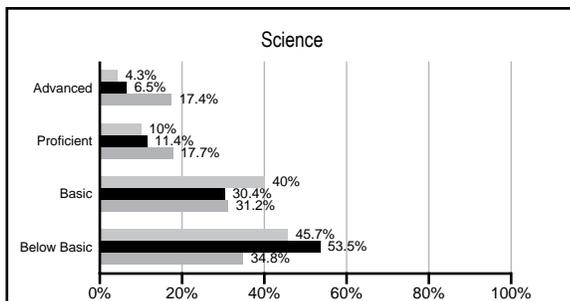
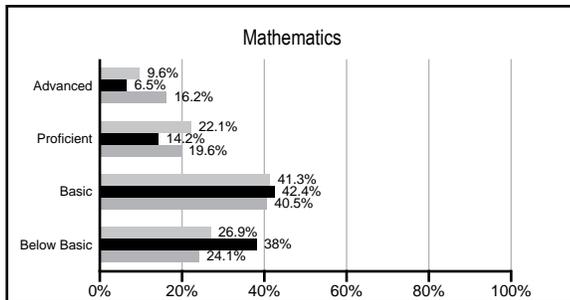
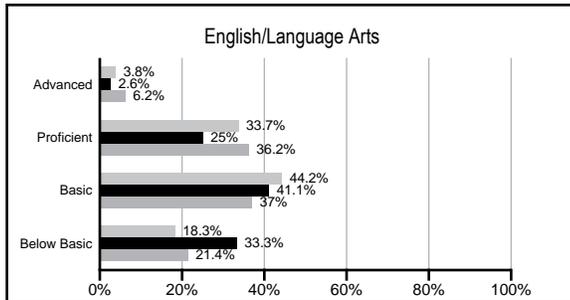
ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
0	1	11	56	59

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 02/17/2009. Schools with Students like Ours are Elementary Schools with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

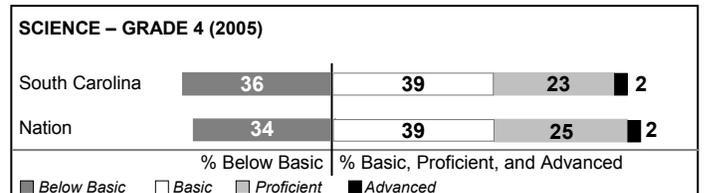
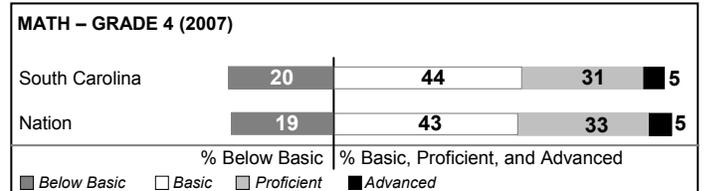
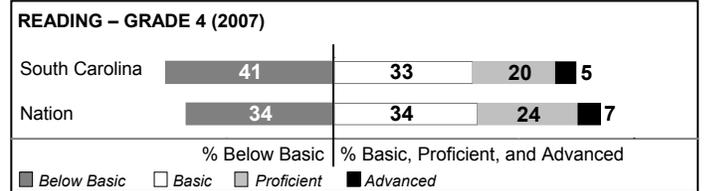
PACT PERFORMANCE

Our School
 Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours
 Elementary schools statewide



NAEP PERFORMANCE*

* Performance reported for SC and nation, data not available at school level. Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels.



SC PERFORMANCE GOAL

2010 Goal:

By 2010, SC's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

2020 Goal: TBD

Abbreviations Key

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample TBD To be determined
 NI Newly Identified CSI Continuing School Improvement CA Corrective Action RP Plan to Restructure R Restructure DELAY School Improvement Status HOLD School Improvement Status

Alma Elementary [Cherokee]

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary School
Students (n=235)				
Retention rate	3.1%	Up from 2.9%	3.0%	2.3%
Attendance rate	98.3%	Up from 98.1%	96.0%	96.3%
Eligible for gifted and talented	7.8%	Up from 5.7%	4.3%	10.4%
With disabilities other than speech	5.2%	Down from 5.3%	8.0%	7.5%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=21)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	28.6%	Down from 31.6%	54.0%	56.7%
Continuing contract teachers	52.4%	Down from 68.4%	70.4%	77.3%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	79.9%	Up from 75.3%	83.7%	86.4%
Teacher attendance rate	95.5%	Up from 94.1%	94.9%	94.9%
Average teacher salary	\$38,134	Up 1.8%	\$44,075	\$45,345
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
School				
Principal's years at school	5.0	Up from 4.0	3.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	19.3 to 1	Up from 18.2 to 1	16.9 to 1	18.5 to 1
Prime instructional time	90.9%	Up from 89.8%	89.1%	89.8%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Character development program	Good	Down from Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$8,436	Down 6.5%	\$7,832	\$7,052
Percent of expenditures for instruction*	55.5%	Down from 57.0%	69.1%	69.1%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	50.3%	Down from 52.5%	62.5%	64.2%
% of AYP objectives met	100.0%		75.9%	85.7%

* Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	24	33	18
Percent satisfied with learning environment	100.0%	100.0%	88.9%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	100.0%	90.9%	88.9%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	87.0%	97.0%	100.0%

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

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Welcome to Alma Elementary, where we all "reach for the stars." The 2007-2008 school year was very successful and productive. Our students and teachers worked diligently. By using the South Carolina academic standards and district curriculum, we created a school-wide long-range plan that resulted in innovative and motivating lessons. High expectations were held across all grade levels.

We have great parental participation. Parents participated in our Open House, Parent-Teacher Conferences, Fall Festival, Title One Parenting Sessions, Awards Days, Musical Programs, Field Day, etc. Parents have been supportive in several community service projects like Relay for Life and March of Dimes. Parents and community members were instrumental in our successful 100 Readers in January.

We are fortunate to have received a 21st Century Learning Community Grant to provide an after-school program to assist in meeting the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs. Our teachers and staff are committed to students as evidenced by their willingness to work in the after-school or morning programs.

We completed the fourth year of our five-year, South Carolina Reading First grant. Our teachers have received extensive staff development in comprehensive reading and assessment in a bi-monthly study group provided by the literacy coach. An abundance of appropriate literacy materials have been purchased for the classrooms, literacy, and media centers. While teachers base their lessons on the needs of their children, our reading interventionists help students one-on-one and in small groups. Our literacy goal is to ensure all children read successfully by the end of the third grade. We applied for and received the Literacy Spot Award sponsored by the State Department of Education and Reading Recovery. This award recognizes outstanding emergent literacy programs in South Carolina.

Technology use continues to increase in our instructional program. All classes are equipped with Activboards. Each class has a document camera, LCD projector, and wireless laptop computer for instructional purposes. Each fifth-grader has a personal digital assistant (PDA) to use for word processing, voice recording, and more. Many students have experienced virtual field trips with the Tanberg Video Conferencing System. We have "traveled" on a polar express ride, and a teleconference has been planned with our third grade to "visit" a school in Texas. As a Red Carpet School, we believe in creating a family-friendly school. To tighten security and to have a record of our visitors, we have installed a new computer program with photo capabilities for all visitors to sign in and out.

At Alma Elementary, education is a team effort among students, parents, staff, and the community. You are encouraged to visit our year-round school to see first-hand how parent involvement, teacher dedication, and industrious students make a successful school. You are invited to become part of our team to "think, inspire, imagine, and celebrate."

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