



SC Annual School Report Card Summary

Fort Dorchester Elementary

Dorchester 2

Grades: PK-5

Enrollment: 1,046

Principal: Carol Farris

Superintendent: Joseph R. Pye

Board Chair: Bufort "Bo" Blanton

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	Good	Below Average	TBD	Met	N/A
2007	Good	Below Average	N/A	Not Met	N/A
2006	Good	Below Average	N/A	Met	N/A

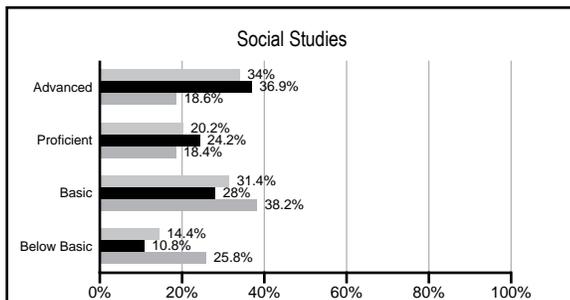
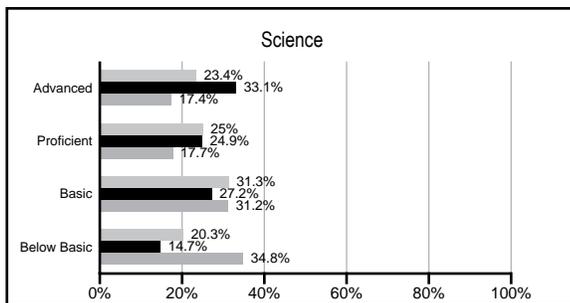
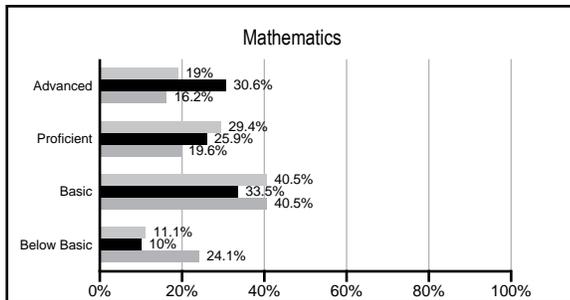
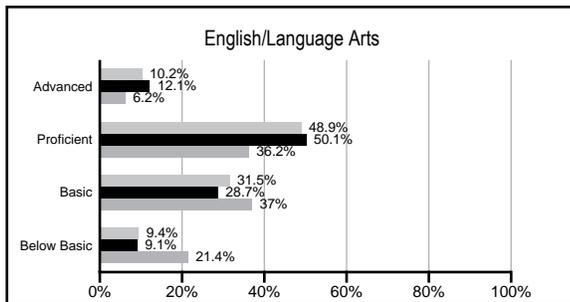
ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
4	17	2	0	0

* 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.

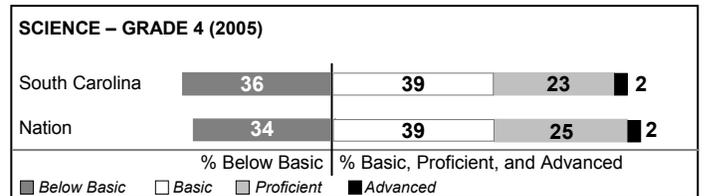
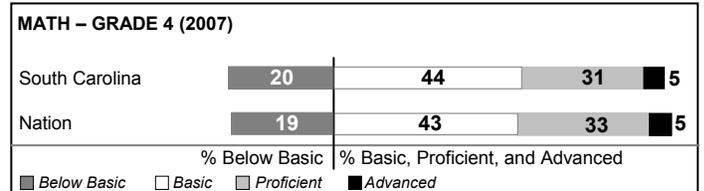
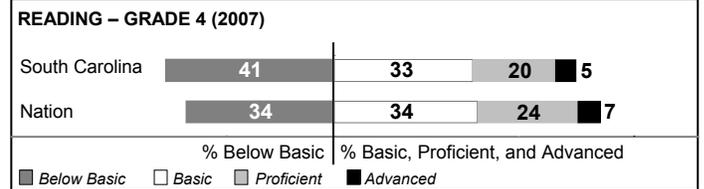
PACT PERFORMANCE

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

Fort Dorchester Elementary [Dorchester 2]

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary School
Students (n=1,046)				
Retention rate	1.3%	Down from 2.8%	1.0%	2.3%
Attendance rate	96.6%	Up from 96.4%	97.0%	96.3%
Eligible for gifted and talented	17.3%	Down from 17.7%	26.0%	10.4%
With disabilities other than speech	3.5%	Down from 3.7%	5.8%	7.5%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	0.6%	Down from 1.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=70)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	47.1%	Up from 44.6%	60.4%	56.7%
Continuing contract teachers	67.1%	Up from 52.5%	78.9%	77.3%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	2.0%	Up from 0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	73.1%	Down from 81.9%	87.7%	86.4%
Teacher attendance rate	96.0%	Up from 94.3%	95.1%	94.9%
Average teacher salary	\$42,712	Up 7.0%	\$46,744	\$45,345
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
School				
Principal's years at school	6.0	Up from 5.0	5.5	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	18.4 to 1	Down from 18.8 to 1	19.6 to 1	18.5 to 1
Prime instructional time	91.9%	Up from 89.7%	90.4%	89.8%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Character development program	Good	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$5,867	Up 0.5%	\$6,581	\$7,052
Percent of expenditures for instruction*	67.9%	Up from 60.4%	73.3%	69.1%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	62.8%	Up from 56.2%	65.3%	64.2%
% of AYP objectives met	100.0%		88.9%	85.7%

* Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	69	158	110
Percent satisfied with learning environment	97.1%	83.3%	88.9%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	100.0%	83.1%	91.7%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	98.6%	83.7%	85.3%

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

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Fort Dorchester Elementary School first opened its doors to students in the fall of 2002. Our school's name was derived from the neighboring historical Fort Dorchester. Our mascot, Glory Gator, was named by our students and was based on the patriotic theme of Fort Dorchester High School. We ended our sixth year serving the instructional needs of 1,075 Child Development through fifth grade students. Situated in a fast growing community, we traditionally have added about 200 to our student population each year. Our 100 member faculty and staff work together to create a friendly, family atmosphere for our students and parents.

Fort Dorchester Elementary has strong parent and community support. The outstanding PTA, School Improvement Council and business partners add much to enhance the school's programs and environment. Input from these groups allows us to offer opportunities that help to make our school a special place for students. Some highlights of our school year, based on support from these groups, include additional technology grants for individual classrooms, a terrific school carnival, several family night events and student awards programs. In May of 2006, we received the Red Carpet Award recognizing Fort Dorchester Elementary School as a family friendly school.

Our challenges include dealing with the fast paced growth of the FDES attendance area and meeting the academic needs of existing and new students. Class size is continuously monitored and evaluated. We are committed to meeting the needs of every student by offering differentiated instruction for a portion of each day in order to serve each child on their academic level and to provide staff development for teachers in all academic areas. We are working to focus on our vision as we tap the skills of our highly-qualified faculty members. We will continue every day to strive to reach our potential regarding the school's mission statement, "Fort Dorchester Elementary School is committed to guiding and challenging each student to succeed in life."

For the 2007-2008 school year, we have worked toward the improvement of student attendance and academic performance. Teachers make phone calls to families when students miss school, administrators meet with individual parents when attendance becomes an issue, and bicycles were donated by various community organizations as perfect attendance incentives. Data collection through the use of DIBELS, one minute testing probes, and MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) are used to determine overall and individual student needs. The results of these diagnostic measures help us to determine groups for differentiation in all subject areas. Our plans for 2008-2009 will include staff development in the areas of technology, math and science and best practices with differentiation. With the help of literacy and math teachers and our Read 180 program, we look forward to successes in all areas. We feel that we have completed a successful sixth year at Fort Dorchester Elementary. We welcome visitors and plan to continue to do our best as we learn and grow.

Carol Farris, Principal
Robin VonKeller, SIC Chairman

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