



# SC Annual School Report Card Summary

**Choices**  
**Darlington**  
**Grades: 7-9**      **Enrollment: 42**  
**Principal: Ralph Porter**  
**Superintendent: Dr. Rainey H. Knight**  
**Board Chair: Dr. Allem McCutcheon**

## PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov) and [www.eoc.sc.gov](http://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	N/A	N/A	TBD	Not Met	N/A
2007	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not Met	N/A
2006	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not Met	N/A

## ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF HIGH SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS\*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
0	0	0	0	0

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

## HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM(HSAP) EXAM PASSAGE RATE(%): SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

	Our High School		High Schools with Students Like Ours	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
Passed 2 subtests (%)	0%	14.3%	0%	0%
Passed 1 subtest (%)	0%	14.3%	0%	0%
Passed no subtests (%)	0%	71.4%	0%	0%

## HSAP PASSAGE RATE (%) BY SPRING 2008

	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
	0%	0%

## ON-TIME GRADUATION RATE

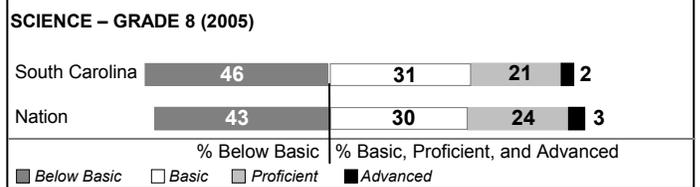
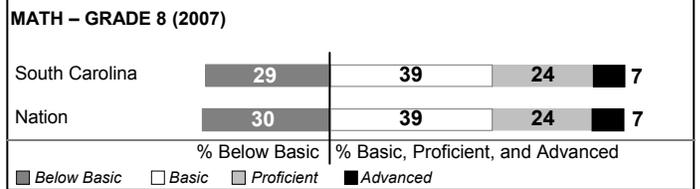
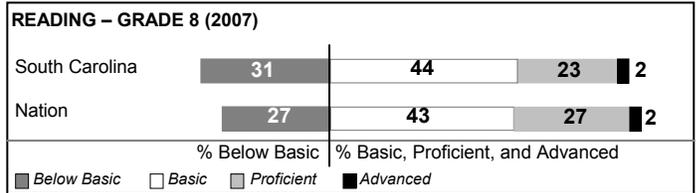
	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Number of students	0	0
Number of Diplomas	0	0
Rate (%)	0%	0%

## END OF COURSE TESTS - 2008

% of students scoring 70 or above on:	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	0%	0%
English 1	0%	0%
Physical Science	0%	0%
All Tests	0%	0%

## 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

# Choices [Darlington]

## SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	High Schools with Students Like Ours	Median High School
<b>Students (n=42)</b>				
Retention rate	21.6%	N/A	10.3%	6.1%
Attendance rate	90.7%	N/A	94.3%	95.0%
Eligible for gifted and talented	0.0%	N/A	3.2%	8.3%
With disabilities other than speech	3.6%	N/A	13.9%	13.0%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	9.5%	N/R	2.0%	1.5%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	N/R	N/R	3.7%	11.4%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	13.4%	54.3%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	N/R	N/R	22.4%	30.5%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	N/A	3.5%	3.5%
Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations	N/A	N/A	2.9%	3.1%
Enrollment in career/technology courses	N/A	N/A	259	559
Career/technology students attaining technical skills	N/A	N/A	76.4%	79.6%
<b>Teachers (n=5)</b>				
Teachers with advanced degrees	0.0%	N/A	52.9%	57.4%
Continuing contract teachers	100.0%	N/A	55.1%	69.6%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0.0%	N/A	20.0%	8.7%
Teachers returning from previous year	N/A	N/A	78.8%	85.0%
Teacher attendance rate	100.0%	N/R	94.9%	95.4%
Average teacher salary	N/A	I/S	\$43,632	\$46,061
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	N/A	N/A	11.0%	4.3%
<b>School</b>				
Principal's years at school	6.0	N/R	2.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	10.7 to 1	N/R	20.0 to 1	25.4 to 1
Prime instructional time	90.7%	N/R	87.0%	89.1%
Dollars spent per pupil*	N/A	N/A	\$9,686	\$7,279
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	N/A	N/A	51.5%	55.3%
Percent of expenditures for instruction*	N/A	N/A	60.6%	60.8%
Opportunities in the arts	Poor	N/R	Good	Excellent
SACS accreditation	No	N/R	Yes	Yes
Character development program	Average	N/R	Good	Good
Modern Language Program Assessment	N/A	N/A	Good	Good
Classical Language Program Assessment	N/A	N/A	Average	Average
% of AYP objectives met	0.0%		80.8%	90.5%

\* Prior year audited financial data available.

## REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

"CHOICES" is in its 6th year as a charter school with charter agreements with both Florence District One and Darlington County. "CHOICES" target population is students ages 12 yrs to 17yrs who have been expelled from school or dropped out. Our goal is to provide an education that will transition them to become life-long learners and to return to regular, traditional school, if that is possible and appropriate. "CHOICES" provides a foundation for continuous learning through classroom instruction, service learning, project-based learning, and on-site construction training. Character training is the cornerstone for "CHOICES" as the students are given the opportunity to discover the greatest possible understanding of self. They are exposed to individual, personalized learning with a strong emphasis on work ethics and job skills.

The mission of "CHOICES" Charter School is to provide a learning environment that links school to work experiences by making the right choices and staying in school. The idea for "CHOICES" originated with the retired police chief of Florence, who saw a need for a school for divergent learners who were roaming the streets and demonstrating behavior problems that were getting them expelled from school. This is the only other alternative after expulsion other than the streets or incarceration. "CHOICES" is physically located in Darlington County adjacent to Florence County in the middle of 130 acres of forest on Black Creek. The property is owned by Central United Methodist Church and "CHOICES" actually leases 8 acres for one dollar per month for the actual school location. Student enrollment has remained small, beginning with 30 students and capping off at 45 students. There is one certified teacher and teacher's assistant per 15 students with additional assistance provided by retired professional people in the community. "CHOICES" has incorporated a Pre-GED component for students that cannot return to High School and will pursue the GED test when they turn 17yrs of age. "Choices" has adopted a progressive discipline system that ensures good communications between schools relative to student behavior.

Respectfully submitted by: Ralph Porter Executive Director and retired Police Chief.

## EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	0	21	21
Percent satisfied with learning environment	N/R	95.2%	90.0%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	N/R	100.0%	90.0%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	N/R	80.0%	90.5%

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

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