



SC Annual School Report Card Summary

Choices
Darlington
Grades: 7-12 **Enrollment: 34**
Principal: Ralph Porter
Superintendent: Dr. Rainey H. Knight
Board Chair: Connell Delaine

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 AND SILVER AWARD		AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
			General Performance	Closing the Gap		
2009	N/A	N/A	TBD	TBD	Not Met	N/A
2008	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	Not Met	N/A
2007	N/A	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
2	3	3	10	14

*Ratings are calculated with data available by 03/23/2010. 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	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Passed 2 subtests (%)	14.3%	N/A	N/A	58.4%
Passed 1 subtest (%)	14.3%	N/A	N/A	20.7%
Passed no subtests (%)	71.4%	N/A	N/A	23.2%

HSAP PASSAGE RATE (%) BY SPRING 2009

	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Passage Rate	N/A	85.1%

ON-TIME GRADUATION RATE

	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Number of students	2	131
Number of Diplomas	N/A	87
Rate (%)	N/A	62.8%

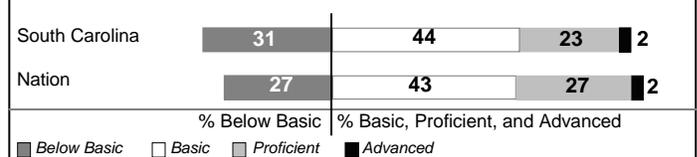
END OF COURSE TESTS - 2009

% of students scoring 70 or above on:	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	N/A	53.9%
English 1	N/A	42.6%
Physical Science	N/A	30.5%
US History and the Constitution	N/A	19.8%
All Tests	N/A	35.7%

NAEP PERFORMANCE*

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

READING – GRADE 8 (2007)



MATH – GRADE 8 (2007)



SCIENCE – GRADE 8 (2005)



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 Vision:

By 2020 all students will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete successfully in the global economy, participate in a democratic society and contribute positively as members of families and communities.

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
Students (n=34)				
Retention rate	22.0%	Up from 21.6%	7.6%	4.8%
Attendance rate	89.0%	Down from 90.7%	94.4%	95.5%
Eligible for gifted and talented	0.0%	No Change	3.6%	9.2%
With disabilities other than speech	0.0%	Down from 3.6%	14.2%	12.6%
Older than usual for grade	29.4%	Down from 33.3%	11.8%	8.6%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	2.9%	Down from 9.5%	1.3%	1.2%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	N/R	N/R	5.9%	13.2%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	38.0%	55.6%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	N/R	N/R	28.2%	29.8%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	No Change	4.1%	3.5%
Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations	N/A	N/A	3.9%	3.0%
Enrollment in career/technology courses	N/A	N/A	337	523
Career/technology students attaining technical skills	N/A	N/A	78.6%	79.3%
Teachers (n=8)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	0.0%	No Change	54.3%	58.6%
Continuing contract teachers	100.0%	No Change	61.3%	71.6%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0.0%	No Change	19.7%	8.1%
Teachers returning from previous year	N/A	N/A	76.0%	85.0%
Teacher attendance rate	100.0%	No Change	95.6%	95.5%
Average teacher salary*	N/A	N/A	\$44,898	\$47,761
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	N/A	N/A	10.6%	3.5%
Professional development days/teacher	5.0 days	No Change	10.7 days	10.8 days
School				
Principal's years at school	7.0	Up from 6.0	2.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	5.4 to 1	Down from 10.7 to 1	22.4 to 1	26.1 to 1
Prime instructional time	89.0%	Down from 90.7%	89.0%	89.8%
Dollars spent per pupil**	N/A	N/A	\$10,026	\$7,883
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	N/A	N/A	53.1%	54.1%
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	N/A	N/A	60.0%	60.2%
Opportunities in the arts	Poor	No Change	Good	Excellent
SACS accreditation	No	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	No Change	92.6%	95.8%
Character development program	Average	No Change	Good	Good
% of AYP objectives met	20.0%	Up from 0.0%	53.8%	64.7%

* Length of contract = 185+ days.

** Prior year audited financial data available.

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

“CHOICES” is in its 7th year as a charter school with charter agreements with both Florence District One and Darlington County. “CHOICES” target population is students, ages 12 to 17, 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 possibly return to a 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. “CHOICES” was originated by a 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. CHOICES is the only alternative after expulsion, other than the streets or incarceration.

“CHOICES” is 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” leases eight acres for one dollar per month for the 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. These students will pursue the GED test when they turn 17 years of age.

“Choices” has adopted a progressive discipline system that ensures good communications with other schools, relative to student behavior.

Ralph Porter, Executive Director

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	4	30	11
Percent satisfied with learning environment	I/S	80.0%	100.0%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	I/S	69.0%	100.0%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	I/S	86.7%	100.0%

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

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