



SC Annual School Report Card Summary

GREAT FALLS HIGH
Chester
Grades: 9-12 Enrollment: 296
Principal: Corey J. Murphy
Superintendent: Dr. Thomas Graves
Board Chair: Dr. Richard Hughes

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		
2010	Average	Below Average	TBD	TBD	Not Met	N/A
2009	Average	Below Average	N/A	Silver	Not Met	N/A
2008	Average	Good	Silver	Gold	Met	N/A

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF HIGH SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
0	4	20	3	0

*Ratings are calculated with data available by 09/29/2011. 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	
	2009	2010	2009	2010
Passed 2 subtests (%)	78.4%	72.9%	72.5%	74.0%
Passed 1 subtest (%)	10.8%	21.4%	14.7%	14.2%
Passed no subtests (%)	10.8%	5.7%	12.8%	12.8%

HSAP PASSAGE RATE (%) BY SPRING 2010

	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Passage Rate	91.5%	88.5%

ON-TIME GRADUATION RATE

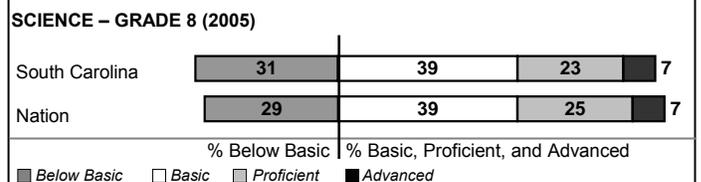
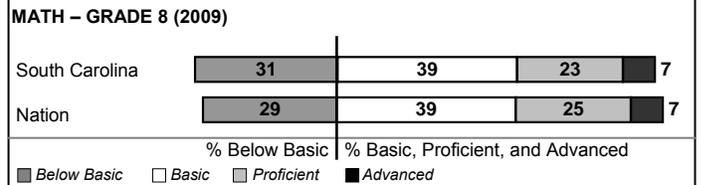
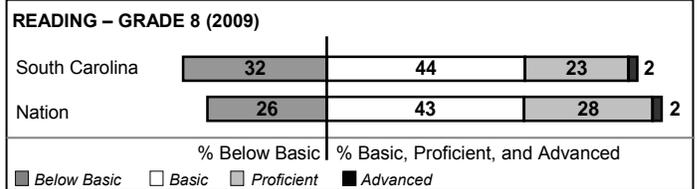
	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Number of students	81	218
Number of Diplomas	58	149
Rate (%)	71.6%	71.0%

END OF COURSE TESTS - 2010

% of students scoring 70 or above on:	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	78.0	68.6
English 1	58.4	58.7
Physical Science	56.9	46.8
US History and the Constitution	14.1	34.3
All Tests	53.9	50.8

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 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

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GREAT FALLS HIGH [Chester]

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	High Schools with Students Like Ours	Median High School
Students (n=296)				
Retention rate	4.2%	Down from 7.6%	4.3%	3.7%
Attendance rate	93.5%	Down from 94.2%	95.2%	95.4%
Eligible for gifted and talented	19.5%	Up from 9.1%	9.6%	12.4%
With disabilities other than speech	13.9%	Down from 14.2%	14.0%	12.8%
Older than usual for grade	12.2%	Down from 12.7%	10.6%	9.1%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	4.4%	Down from 7.0%	1.7%	1.1%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	12.9%	Down from 17.6%	10.0%	13.1%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	40.3%	50.4%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	28.6%	Down from 31.3%	31.4%	30.4%
Annual dropout rate	6.2%	Up from 5.0%	3.5%	3.1%
Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations	0.0%	No Change	6.2%	2.2%
Enrollment in career/technology courses	146	Down from 195	341	424
Career/technology students attaining technical skills	90.7%	Down from 91.5%	79.3%	78.7%
Teachers (n=23)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	56.5%	Up from 53.8%	59.9%	60.4%
Continuing contract teachers	52.2%	Down from 61.5%	73.5%	76.6%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	15.8%	Down from 18.2%	10.0%	6.5%
Teachers returning from previous year	81.5%	Up from 79.0%	82.9%	86.8%
Teacher attendance rate	96.6%	Down from 97.1%	95.2%	95.8%
Average teacher salary*	\$48,154	Down 2.7%	\$46,758	\$47,390
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	No Change	2.6%	2.8%
Professional development days/teacher	7.4 days	Down from 13.6 days	10.1 days	10.0 days
School				
Principal's years at school	0.0	Down from 2.0	4.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	20.7 to 1	Down from 20.9 to 1	25.6 to 1	25.8 to 1
Prime instructional time	89.2%	Down from 89.9%	89.2%	90.1%
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$10,822	Up 4.1%	\$8,394	\$7,974
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	54.1%	Down from 55.3%	54.9%	55.4%
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	55.8%	Down from 57.5%	60.7%	60.4%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	99.0%	Up from 88.7%	95.1%	96.0%
Character development program	Good	Up from Below Average	Excellent	Good
% of AYP objectives met	54.5%	Up from 46.2%	61.5%	69.2%

* Length of contract = 185+ days.

** Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	27	57	18
Percent satisfied with learning environment	92.6%	87.7%	88.9%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	96.3%	87.7%	77.8%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	61.5%	93.0%	94.4%

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

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Great Falls High School serves the Chester County School District students in the extreme southeast corner of the county. The student body of approximately 310 students is diverse, with 44% African-American, 55% white, and .7% Hispanic. The Absolute Rating of the school in 2009 remained Average. Great Falls High was also awarded the Palmetto Silver Award for closing the achievement gap. The S.C. State Department of Education awarded the school the Magna Cum Laude Award for high improvement on the ACT test. This year, Great Falls High School underwent a successful evaluation by a High Schools That Work technical assistance team of educators and community members. Great Falls High School seniors participated for the first time in the HSTW Assessment, a nationally-normed test; and 12 seniors were recognized as top national achievers. The Advisor/Advisee Program continues to foster student success and positive choices. Great Falls High School was granted over \$200,000 in funding to be used over three years from the Chester County Health Care Foundation. The money is used to fund an after-school academic assistance lab that includes a healthy snack and transportation home, after-school classes for initial credit, and a summer academic recovery program called Fifth Quarter.

Our emphasis is on continuous improvement. An instructional coach was employed to increase achievement and test taking confidence on End of Course tests, HSAP exams, and ACT/ SAT test prep. The summer Jumpstart Program continues for select incoming freshmen to prep them for success at the high school. The literacy initiative is being enriched with Silent Sustained Reading in the language arts classes along with mandatory summer reading. The addition of Senior Projects has added rigor to prepare graduates for college, the military, or the workforce.

Our students can earn dual credits in college level courses offered in the distance learning lab from the University of South Carolina at Lancaster or York Technical College, as well as credits on-line through the NOVA Net program. Twenty-six out of 62 seniors this year have the 3.5 GPA needed to be considered Honor Graduates. Eighteen of our seniors are eligible for Life Scholarships.

The JROTC program at Great Falls High School continues to excel and is designated as an Honor Unit with Distinction. Six JROTC senior cadets were awarded a total of \$568,452 dollars in ROTC scholarships to South Carolina universities and colleges.

Great Falls has a rich tradition of athletic participation and achievement, offering seven varsity sports. The football, baseball, golf, track, and basketball teams advanced to the 1A state finals, with the basketball team finishing as the runner-up for the state 1A Championship. Over 47% of our GFHS students are involved in the high school athletic program, with 3 students receiving scholarships.

Twenty-eight students attended the Chester County Career Center this year to take a variety of technical and career exploratory courses.

It is the steadfast intent of the administration, faculty, and staff of Great Falls High to continuously focus on teaching and learning to increase student achievement.

Corey J. Murphy, Principal
Glenn Ross, School Improvement Council Chair

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