



# SC Annual School Report Card Summary

**EAST COOPER MONTESSORI CHARTER**  
**Charleston**  
**Grades: 1-8**      **Enrollment: 194**  
**Principal: Jody Swanigan**  
**Superintendent: Dr. Nancy J. McGinley**  
**Board Chair: Mr. Chris Fraser**

## 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 AND SILVER AWARD		AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
			General Performance	Closing the Gap		
2011	Excellent	Excellent	TBD	TBD	Met	N/A
2010	Excellent	Excellent	Gold	N/A	Met	N/A
2009	Excellent	Average	Gold	N/A	Met	N/A

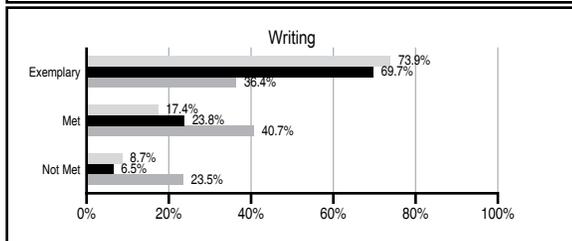
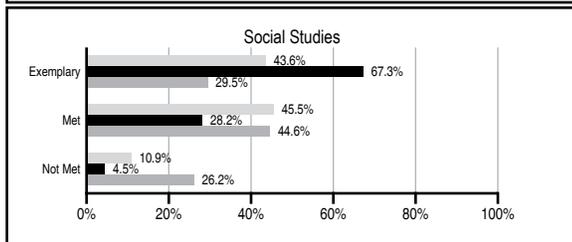
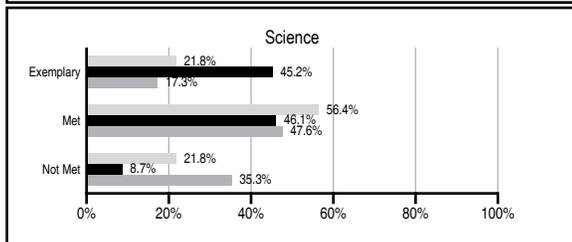
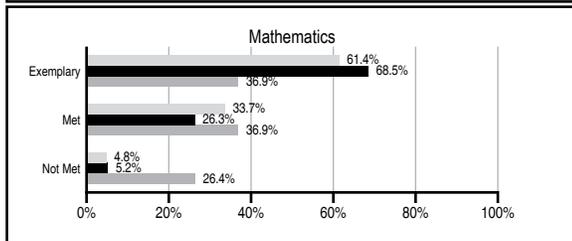
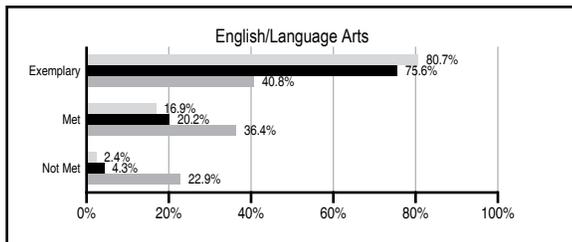
## ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS\*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
7	0	0	0	0

\* Ratings are calculated with data available by 11/09/2011. Schools with Students Like Ours are Elementary Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

## PASS 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 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

# EAST COOPER MONTESSORI CHARTER [Charleston]

## SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary School
<b>Students (n=194)</b>				
Retention rate	1.1%	Up from 0.0%	0.6%	1.1%
Attendance rate	96.6%	Down from 96.8%	96.9%	96.2%
Served by gifted and talented program	31.3%	Down from 53.3%	40.1%	13.4%
With disabilities other than speech	2.5%	Down from 3.8%	1.9%	4.1%
Older than usual for grade	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.3%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Teachers (n=19)</b>				
Teachers with advanced degrees	42.1%	Up from 40.0%	62.5%	62.5%
Continuing contract teachers	47.4%	Up from 33.3%	84.9%	88.2%
Teachers returning from previous year	83.3%	Up from 66.7%	85.4%	87.8%
Teacher attendance rate	97.1%	Up from 96.1%	95.7%	95.2%
Average teacher salary*	\$42,544	Down 3.7%	\$48,207	\$46,773
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	29.2%	Up from 24.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Professional development days/teacher	7.9 days	Up from 5.2 days	7.9 days	10.5 days
<b>School</b>				
Principal's years at school	8.0	Up from 6.0	7.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	17.5 to 1	Down from 18.5 to 1	21.4 to 1	19.9 to 1
Prime instructional time	93.0%	Up from 92.6%	92.0%	90.4%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	No	No Change	No	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	Up from 98.5%	100.0%	100.0%
Character development program	Excellent	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$9,124	Down 5.4%	\$7,971	\$7,447
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	56.0%	Down from 58.0%	65.7%	68.4%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	51.1%	Down from 53.3%	64.6%	65.8%
% of AYP objectives met	100.0%	No Change	100.0%	90.5%

\* Length of contract = 185+ days.

\*\* Prior year audited financial data available.

## EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	2	25	17
Percent satisfied with learning environment	I/S	92.0%	100.0%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	I/S	88.0%	100.0%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	I/S	88.0%	100.0%

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

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## REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Guided by the principles of Dr. Maria Montessori, East Cooper Montessori Charter School (ECMCS) offers an authentic Montessori education to elementary and middle school students in the Charleston County public school system. ECMCS is the only public charter school in the state of South Carolina serving students in both an elementary environment and middle school environment and has become a model school for new Montessori Charter Schools.

The mission of ECMCS, in part, is to provide a rigorous Montessori education that guides children toward academic excellence and a lifelong love of learning. The school fulfills this aspect of its mission by offering an enriched and cultural curriculum that incorporates and extends district, state and national standards. Montessori education is rooted in the natural curiosity of children about life and the world around them. Students develop their abilities by posing questions, designing investigations, and gaining skills necessary to express and pursue their own research interests. Scientific and mathematical aptitudes, appreciation of history and timelines, literacy across disciplines, and the development of a student's humanity toward the local and global community are all part of the curriculum at ECMCS.

The second part of the school's mission is to encourage stewardship of the greater community. Starting in the first grade, all of our students devote at least 20 hours to an individual community service project called the Yearlong Peace Project. Shelter Box for Japan, collecting coupons for Overseas Coupon Program, various fundraisers for the Turtle Hospital and reading buddies at Malcolm C. Hursey Elementary are just a few of the many organizations to which our students volunteer their time throughout the year. Students are acutely aware of the environment and take care of it by recycling, growing an organic garden and using their herbs to make non-toxic soaps. Parent volunteerism is an integral part of the success of ECMCS and sets the example for students. Parents served nearly 6,000 hours on the school board and committees, helping out in the classrooms and researching community resources to support the schools mission.

The consistent and professional leadership of the Governing Board and school administration remains a cornerstone of its success. The school, like all public schools must continue to do more with less. Our fiscal conservatism and solid strategic planning has allowed the school to implement its plans of expansion to address the yearly extensive wait list of students wanting to attend ECMCS.

The 2010-2011 school-year was filled with many significant accomplishments. The school was again awarded the Palmetto Goal Award; has been the named the host site for CCSD's Montessori training for educators across the state; and offers gifted education in an immersion setting instead of a pull-out model. All ECMCS lead teachers are required to be endorsed in Gifted Education in addition to being state certified in the area of instruction as well as Montessori certified. The school's greatest success is seen in the success of its students.

Jody Swanigan, Principal  
Jane Taylor, Governing Board Chair

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