

## SC CONNECTIONS ACADEMY

220 Stoneridge Drive,  
Columbia, SC 29210

<b>Grades</b>	K-12 High School	
<b>Enrollment</b>	2,427 Students	
<b>Principal</b>	Allison R. Reaves	803-212-4712
<b>Superintendent</b>	Dr. Wayne Brazell	803-734-8322
<b>Board Chair</b>	Don McLaurin	803-603-1441

# THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2011 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

## RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
<b>2011</b>	<b>Below Average</b>	<b>N/A</b>
2010	N/A	N/A
2009	N/A	N/A
2008	N/A	N/A
2007	N/A	N/A

## DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

- Excellent – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Good – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Average – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Below Average – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- At-Risk – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision

## SOUTH CAROLINA 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.

<http://ed.sc.gov>  
<http://eoc.sc.gov>

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

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
10	10	18	1	1

\* Ratings are calculated with data available by 11/09/2011.

**High School Assessment Program (HSAP) Exam Passage Rate: Second Year Students**

Percent	Our High School			High Schools with Students Like Ours		
	2009	2010	2011	2009	2010	2011
Passed 2 subtests (%)	73.8%	73.6%	64.8%	N/A	N/A	77.9%
Passed 1 subtest (%)	14.3%	19.5%	22.1%	N/A	N/A	12.7%
Passed no subtests (%)	11.9%	6.9%	13.1%	N/A	N/A	9.4%

**HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2011**

Percent	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
	95.8%	91.3%

**Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate**

	Our High School		High Schools with Students Like Ours	
	2010*	2011	2010	2011
Number of Students in Four-Year Cohort	79	202	N/A	296
Number of Graduates in Cohort	25	77	N/A	211
Rate	31.6%	38.1%	N/A	72.0%

\*Used to calculate current AYP.

**Five-Year Graduation Rate**

	Our High School		High Schools with Students Like Ours	
	2010	2011	2010	2011
Number of Students in Cohort	N/A	78	N/A	296
Number of Graduates in Cohort	N/A	30	N/A	209
Rate	N/A	38.5%	N/A	69.5%

**End of Course Tests**

Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours*
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	65.4%	76.6%
English 1	72.0%	66.3%
Biology 1/Applied Biology 2	58.8%	68.9%
Physical Science	42.2%	57.0%
US History and the Constitution	30.2%	47.7%
All Tests	52.1%	62.9%

\* High Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

**Abbreviations for Missing Data**

N/A–Not Applicable    N/AV–Not Available    N/C–Not Collected    N/R–Not Reported    I/S–Insufficient Sample

## School Profile

	Our School	Change from Last Year	High Schools with Students Like Ours	Median High School
<b>Students (n=2,427)</b>				
Retention rate	4.6%	Up from 1.9%	4.0%	3.4%
Attendance rate	95.1%	Down from 96.0%	94.6%	95.0%
Served by gifted and talented program	4.9%	Down from 12.6%	16.1%	12.4%
With disabilities other than speech	6.0%	Down from 9.1%	11.1%	9.9%
Older than usual for grade	7.5%	Down from 8.3%	7.3%	7.1%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No Change	0.8%	0.9%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	15.2%	Up from 12.9%	14.4%	13.0%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	50.0%	51.7%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	N/R	N/R	32.4%	30.1%
Annual dropout rate	14.2%	Up from 1.4%	3.2%	2.5%
Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations	0.0%	No Change	2.1%	2.9%
Enrollment in career/technology courses	1433	Down from 1537	474	419
Students participating in work-based experiences	0.0%	No Change	12.3%	7.2%
Career/technology students attaining technical skills	N/A	N/A	81.7%	83.0%
Career/technology completers placed	N/A	N/A	97.3%	98.4%
<b>Teachers (n=59)</b>				
Teachers with advanced degrees	40.7%	Down from 45.7%	61.6%	61.1%
Continuing contract teachers	44.1%	Up from 8.7%	86.2%	80.6%
Teachers returning from previous year	N/A	N/A	87.9%	86.5%
Teacher attendance rate	98.8%	Up from 96.8%	95.6%	95.5%
Average teacher salary*	\$33,590	Down 0.1%	\$47,128	\$46,884
Professional development days/teacher	11.0 days	Down from 17.3 days	10.9 days	10.0 days
<b>School</b>				
Principal's years at school	2.0	Up from 1.0	3.8	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	N/R	N/R	29.4 to 1	26.5 to 1
Prime instructional time	93.9%	Up from 92.2%	89.2%	89.3%
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$5,887	Up 10.5%	\$7,285	\$7,804
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	20.5%	Up from 17.1%	56.8%	58.0%
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	87.0%	Up from 54.0%	59.7%	60.6%
Opportunities in the arts	Poor	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	No Change	97.2%	97.3%
Character development program	Average	Up from Below Average	Good	Good
Modern language program assessment	N/A	N/A	Good	Good
Classical language program assessment	N/A	N/A	N/A	Good

\* Includes current year teachers contracted for 185 or more days.

\*\* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

## Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A–Not Applicable N/AV–Not Available N/C–Not Collected N/R–Not Reported I/S–Insufficient Sample

## Performance By Student Groups

	HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2011		End of Course Tests Passage Rate		On-time Graduation Rate, 2010 For AYP		Met AYP Objective
	n	%	t	%	n	%	
All Students	24	95.8%	1120	52.1%	79	31.6%	No
<b>Gender</b>							
Male	14	92.9%	498	55.8%	28	17.9%	N/A
Female	10	100.0%	589	49.2%	51	39.2%	N/A
<b>Racial/Ethnic Group</b>							
White	18	100.0%	844	53.8%	62	32.3%	N/A
African American	N/A	N/A	163	42.3%	11	9.1%	N/A
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	N/A	N/A	67	58.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	13	46.2%	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Disability Status</b>							
Disabled	N/A	N/A	81	33.3%	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Migrant Status</b>							
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>English Proficiency</b>							
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
<b>Socio-Economic Status</b>							
Subsidized meals	13	92.3%	428	46.0%	32	25.0%	N/A

NOTE: n=number of students on which percentage is calculated; t=number of tests taken.

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## Report of Principal and School Improvement Council

South Carolina Connections Academy (SCCA) is a pioneering, public virtual charter school that opened during the 2008-2009 school year as a member of the SC Public Charter School District. SCCA offers a premier online education to students in grades K-12 regardless of where they reside in the state. Our curriculum meets national and state standards while simultaneously meeting the personal needs of all of our students. Students progress through the program under the guidance of their Learning Coach (typically a parent or guardian) in conjunction with their highly qualified SC certified teachers. Regular interaction occurs via phone, e-mail, Field Trips and live web conferences. Student work is then submitted online for teacher review. Our user friendly Learning Management System (LMS) includes coursework, a daily planner, a grade book, attendance recorder, communication tools, a virtual library, message boards and supplemental learning programs. The LMS provides all the necessary information, at your fingertips, to successfully learn anywhere there is an internet connection. This unique system sets us apart from all other virtual charter schools.

SCCA offers advanced curriculum to Gifted and Talented students in grades 3 through 8 in Science, Math and Language Arts. These students participate in a Literature Study course using the Junior Great Books series. Teachers in our Special Education Department serve their students using the inclusion model to meet their needs in the least restrictive environment. Students required to receive speech services participate in Virtual Speech sessions. Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy and Speech Services are also provided through contracted, certified providers.

Our high school program includes approximately 975 students across the state. The selection of courses we offer is varied and challenging. Students are able to study Foreign Languages such as Mandarin Chinese, Latin, French and Spanish. We also offer 20 Advanced Placement courses and a variety of college preparatory electives. Our graduation requirements are more rigorous than the state mandates. For example, SCCA requires that all students successfully complete a full year of health and a full year of American Government.

In an effort to create a sense of community, various Field Trips were planned statewide. This allowed students, parents and teachers to interact face-to-face. Over 100 opportunities were held during the 2010-2011 school year including museum, zoo and aquarium tours; environmental awareness activities; an arts festival featuring student work; a Field Day and Graduation.

Allison R. Reaves  
SCCA Executive Director

## Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	33	13	78
Percent satisfied with learning environment	100.0%	100.0%	95.9%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	84.8%	100.0%	82.7%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	100.0%	100.0%	98.7%

\* Only eleventh grade students and their parents were included. For schools without grade eleven, only the highest grade was included.

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No Child Left Behind

School Adequate Yearly Progress

NO

This school met 17 out of 25 objectives. The objectives included student performance, graduation rate or student attendance, and participation in the state testing program.

Definition: As required by the United States Department of Education, Adequate Yearly Progress specifies that the statewide target is met for "All Students" and for the following subgroups: Racial/Ethnic, Subsidized Meals, Disability, and Limited English Proficiency in the areas of English/Language Arts and Mathematics, as well as meeting the statewide target for "All Students" for attendance or graduation rate.

School Improvement Status

CSI

School Improvement Key

NI	Newly Identified-The school missed adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two years. Sanction: Offer school choice.
CSI	Continuing School Improvement-The school missed AYP for three years. Sanctions: Continue school choice and implement supplemental services.
CA	Corrective Action-The school missed AYP for four years. Sanction: Continue school choice and supplemental services. The school district takes a corrective action.
RP	Plan to Restructure-Sanctions: Continue school choice and supplemental services. Develop a plan to restructure. If the school misses AYP the next year, the school implements the restructuring plan.
R	Restructure-The school missed AYP after two years of corrective action. Sanctions: Implement the restructuring plan. Continue school choice and supplemental services.
DELAY	The school met AYP in all subgroups and the indicator for one year, thus the delay provision applies. The school remains in the same status as last year and is referred to as in "Delay."
HOLD	The school made progress for one year in the subject area that identified the school for school improvement. The school remains in the same status as last year and is referred to as in "Hold."

Teacher Quality Data

	Our District	State
Classes in low poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	9.6%	1.7%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	20.0%	4.4%

  

	Our School	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	16.8%	0.0%	No

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HSAP Performance By Group

	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	School % Proficient or Advanced*	District % Proficient or Advanced*	State % Proficient or Advanced*	Performance Objective Met	Participation Objective Met
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English/Language Arts - State Performance Objective = 71.3% (Proficient or Advanced)

All Students	324	82.4	15.3	27.3	27.3	30.1	64.2	62.3	68.0	Yes	Yes
Male	132	86.4	29.3	26.7	22.7	21.3	52.0	53.9	63.1	N/A	N/A
Female	192	79.7	5.0	27.7	30.7	36.6	73.3	68.5	73.1	N/A	N/A
White	254	84.3	14.1	28.2	26.1	31.7	65.5	64.1	79.4	Yes	Yes
African American	44	77.3	31.8	22.7	27.3	18.2	50.0	49.0	51.7	No	Yes
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	N/A	83.2	I/S	I/S
Hispanic	17	88.2	N/A	10.0	50.0	40.0	90.0	92.9	62.8	Yes	Yes
American Indian/Alaskan	5	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	N/A	66.4	I/S	I/S
Disabled	32	84.4	60.0	35.0	5.0	N/A	10.0	16.4	22.8	No	Yes
Migrant	0	N/A	I/S	N/A	N/A						
Limited English Proficient	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I/S	45.1	I/S	I/S
Subsidized meals	161	75.8	20.5	29.5	28.2	21.8	56.4	56.1	54.7	Yes	Yes

Mathematics - State Performance Objective = 70.0% (Proficient or Advanced)

All Students	324	80.2	29.5	29.5	22.7	18.2	48.3	43.8	62.3	No	Yes
Male	132	82.6	40.0	21.3	17.3	21.3	45.3	42.9	61.4	N/A	N/A
Female	192	78.6	21.8	35.6	26.7	15.8	50.5	44.5	63.2	N/A	N/A
White	254	82.3	23.9	31.0	24.6	20.4	52.1	48.4	75.3	No	Yes
African American	44	75.0	59.1	22.7	18.2	N/A	27.3	21.4	42.9	No	Yes
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	N/A	84.3	I/S	I/S
Hispanic	17	88.2	40.0	20.0	10.0	30.0	50.0	57.1	59.4	Yes	Yes
American Indian/Alaskan	5	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	N/A	64.1	I/S	I/S
Disabled	32	84.4	80.0	15.0	5.0	N/A	5.0	9.0	21.5	No	Yes
Migrant	0	N/A	I/S	N/A	N/A						
Limited English Proficient	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	I/S	47.1	I/S	I/S
Subsidized meals	161	73.3	35.9	32.1	21.8	10.3	42.3	38.0	48.5	No	Yes

Biology 1/Applied Biology 2 (End-of-Course Test Performance by Group)

All Students	324	82.4	70.0	13.5	9.4	7.1	16.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Male	132	84.1	66.7	11.7	8.1	13.5	21.6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Female	192	81.3	72.4	14.7	10.3	2.6	12.8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
White	254	85.0	65.3	16.2	10.2	8.3	18.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
African American	44	65.9	93.1	N/A	6.9	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Asian/Pacific Islander	4	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	17	88.2	80.0	6.7	6.7	6.7	13.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
American Indian/Alaskan	5	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disabled	32	68.8	95.5	4.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Migrant	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Limited English Proficient	0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Subsidized meals	161	76.4	74.0	13.8	10.6	1.6	12.2	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

\* Adjusted to account for natural variation in performance.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A–Not Applicable N/AV–Not Available N/C–Not Collected N/R–Not Reported I/S–Insufficient Sample

**Two-Year HSAP Trend Data**

	School Year	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	School % Proficient or Advanced*	District % Proficient or Advanced*	State % Proficient or Advanced*
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**English/Language Arts - State Performance Objective = 71.3% (Proficient or Advanced)**

All Students	2010	191	83.2	10.4	28.1	25.0	36.5	68.8	63.9	65.9
	2011	324	82.4	15.3	27.3	27.3	30.1	64.2	62.3	68.0

**Mathematics - State Performance Objective = 70.0% (Proficient or Advanced)**

All Students	2010	191	80.6	21.1	41.1	18.9	18.9	52.6	49.1	62.3
	2011	324	80.2	29.5	29.5	22.7	18.2	48.3	43.8	62.3

\* Adjusted to account for natural variation in performance.

Abbreviations for Missing Data