



South Carolina Connections Academy

220 Stoneridge Drive,
Columbia, SC 29001

Grades	K-12 High School	
Enrollment	2,794 Students	
Principal	Allison R. Reaves	803-212-4712
Superintendent	Wayne Brazell, Ph.D.	803-734-8322
Board Chair	Don McLaurin	803-603-1441

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2012 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD



RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2012	At-Risk	At-Risk
2011	Below Average	N/A
2010	N/A	N/A
2009	N/A	N/A
2008	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://www.eoc.sc.gov>

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF HIGH SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
14	20	9	0	3

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 11/14/2012.

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

Percent	Our High School			High Schools with Students Like Ours		
	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Passed 2 subtests (%)	73.6%	64.8%	65.4%	N/A	77.9%	78.2%
Passed 1 subtest (%)	19.5%	22.1%	26.9%	N/A	12.7%	13.5%
Passed no subtests (%)	6.9%	13.1%	7.8%	N/A	9.4%	8.4%

HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2012

Percent	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
	78.9%	91.0%

Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate

	Our High School		High Schools with Students Like Ours	
	2011*	2012	2011	2012
Number of Students in Four-Year Cohort	202	328	296	272
Number of Graduates in Cohort	77	113	211	197
Rate	38.1%	34.5%	72.0%	73.8%

*Used to calculate current ESEA/Federal Accountability Grade.

Five-Year Graduation Rate

	Our High School		High Schools with Students Like Ours	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
Number of Students in Cohort	78	197	296	273
Number of Graduates in Cohort	30	82	209	207
Rate	38.5%	41.6%	69.5%	76.6%

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	62.2%	74.2%
English 1	67.5%	66.3%
Biology 1/Applied Biology 2	73.3%	76.8%
US History and the Constitution	36.8%	48.5%
All Tests	59.3%	66.4%

* 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
Students (n=2,794)				
Retention rate	2.9%	Down from 4.6%	3.2%	3.0%
Attendance rate	98.3%	Up from 95.1%	95.4%	95.3%
Served by gifted and talented program	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
With disabilities other than speech	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Older than usual for grade	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
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	12.0%	Down from 15.2%	13.5%	13.4%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	47.5%	50.9%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	0.8%	N/R	30.3%	30.1%
Annual dropout rate	0.4%	Down from 14.2%	3.0%	2.3%
Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations	0.0%	No Change	2.3%	2.7%
Enrollment in career/technology courses	432	Down from 1433	432	395
Students participating in work-based experiences	0.0%	No Change	9.2%	7.4%
Career/technology students attaining technical skills	51.6%	N/A	82.9%	84.0%
Career/technology completers placed	N/A	N/A	98.9%	98.4%
Teachers (n=74)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	51.4%	Up from 40.7%	63.2%	63.2%
Continuing contract teachers	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Teachers returning from previous year	81.6%	N/A	87.9%	86.6%
Teacher attendance rate	96.0%	Down from 98.8%	95.2%	95.2%
Average teacher salary*	\$35,577	Up 5.9%	\$48,004	\$47,326
Professional development days/teacher	12.4 days	Up from 11.0 days	9.7 days	9.7 days
School				
Principal's years at school	3.0	Up from 2.0	4.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	N/R	N/R	28.1 to 1	27.1 to 1
Prime instructional time	94.0%	Up from 93.9%	89.4%	89.4%
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$5,127	Down 12.9%	\$7,570	\$7,708
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	52.6%	Up from 20.5%	57.1%	57.1%
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	83.0%	Down from 87.0%	59.5%	59.6%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	Up from Poor	Excellent	Excellent
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	No Change	98.4%	97.8%
Character development program	Excellent	Up from Average	Good	Good
Modern language program assessment	N/A	N/A	Average	Good
Classical language program assessment	N/A	N/A	N/A	Average

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

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

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Performance By Student Groups

	HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2012		End of Course Tests Passage Rate		On-time Graduation Rate, 2012	
	n	%	t	%	n	%
All Students	90	78.9%	1141	59.3%	328	34.5%
Gender						
Male	29	89.7%	491	61.3%	140	32.9%
Female	61	73.8%	637	57.6%	188	35.6%
Racial/Ethnic Group						
White	73	76.7%	874	60.3%	263	34.2%
African American	N/A	N/A	175	50.9%	44	34.1%
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	N/A	N/A	57	71.9%	14	35.7%
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	11	36.4%	N/A	N/A
Disability Status						
Disabled	11	54.5%	111	36.0%	21	33.3%
Migrant Status						
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
English Proficiency						
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Socio-Economic Status						
Subsidized meals	46	76.1%	504	53.0%	169	23.1%

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 Education Management System (EMS) includes: coursework, a daily planner, a grade book, attendance recorder, communication tools, a virtual library, message boards, and supplemental learning programs. The EMS 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 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 students according to Individualized Education Plans. Students requiring 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 1,025 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. SCCA requires all students to successfully complete two years of foreign languages or humanities. In addition, a full year of health and a full year of American Government are required. In an effort to create a sense of community, various Field Trips and teacher created face-to-face learning experiences were planned statewide. These opportunities allowed students, parents, and teachers to interact and socialize. Over 90 opportunities were held during the 2011-2012 school year including museum, zoo and aquarium tours; environmental awareness activities; an arts festival featuring student work; academic hands on activities; a Field Day and Graduation.

Allison R. Reaves, M. ED., SCCA Executive Director
 Kelly McNally, SIC Chair

Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percent satisfied with learning environment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	N/A	N/A	N/A

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

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ESEA/Federal Accountability Rating System

In July 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education was granted a waiver from several accountability requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This waiver allowed SC to replace the former pass/fail system with one that utilizes more of the statewide assessments already in place and combine these subject area results with graduation rate (in high schools) to determine if each school met the target or made progress toward the target. This analysis results in a letter grade for the school rather than the pass/fail system of previous years. For a detailed review of the matrix for each school and districts that determined the letter grade, please use the following link: <http://ed.sc.gov/data/esea/> or request this information from your child’s district or school.

Overall Weighted Points Total	74.0
Overall Grade Conversion	C

Index Score	Grade	Description
90-100	A	Performance substantially exceeds the state’s expectations.
80-89.9	B	Performance exceeds the state’s expectations.
70-79.9	C	Performance meets the state’s expectations.
60-69.9	D	Performance does not meet the state’s expectations.
Less than 60	F	Performance is substantially below the state’s expectations

Accountability Indicator for Title I Schools

South Carolina Connections Academy school has been designated as a:

- Title I Reward School for Performance - among the highest performing Title I schools in a given year.
- Title I Reward School for Progress – one of the schools with substantial progress in student subgroups.
- Title I Focus School – one of the schools with the highest average performance gap between subgroups.
- Title I Priority School – one of the 5% lowest performing Title I schools.
- Title I School – does not qualify as Reward, Focus or Priority School.
- Non-Title I School – therefore the designations above are not applicable.

Teacher Quality Data

	Our District	State
Classes in low poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	13.1%	2.6%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	13.6%	5.1%

	Our School	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	10.9%	0.0%	No

Abbreviations for Missing Data

Performance By Group

Subgroups	ELA Mean	Math Mean	Science Mean	Social Studies Mean	ELA % Tested	Math % Tested	Graduation Rate
Grades 9-12							
All Students	232	222	73	67	94.0	92.7	38.1
Male	229	221	75	69	94.1	94.1	39.2
Female	235	222	71	66	93.9	91.5	37.4
White	232	222	73	68	93.4	91.7	40.4
African American	231	221	N/A	65	95.3	97.7	34.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disabled	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Subsidized meals	225	214	71	65	93.5	93.5	22.9
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	223	220	76	71	95.0	95	73.1

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Two-Year HSAP Trend Data

	School Year	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	School % Proficient or Advanced*
English/Language Arts								
All Students	2011	324	82.4	15.3	27.3	27.3	30.1	64.2
	2012	301	93.7	9.3	33.3	34.8	22.5	68.6
Mathematics								
All Students	2011	324	80.2	29.5	29.5	22.7	18.2	48.3
	2012	301	92.4	31.7	29.8	22.4	16.1	44.9

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