



Youth Leadership Academy

698 Concord Church Road
Pickens, SC 29671

Grades	6-7 Middle School	
Enrollment	48 Students	
Principal	Patsy Wood Smith	864-878-1103
Superintendent	Wayne Brazell, Ph. D.	803-734-8322
Board Chair	Don McLaurin	803-603-1441

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2013 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD



RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2013	Excellent	At-Risk
2012	N/A	N/A
2011	N/A	N/A
2010	N/A	N/A
2009	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>

Percent of Student PASS Records Matched for Purpose of Computing Growth Rating

Percent of students tested in 2012-13 whose 2011-12 test scores were located

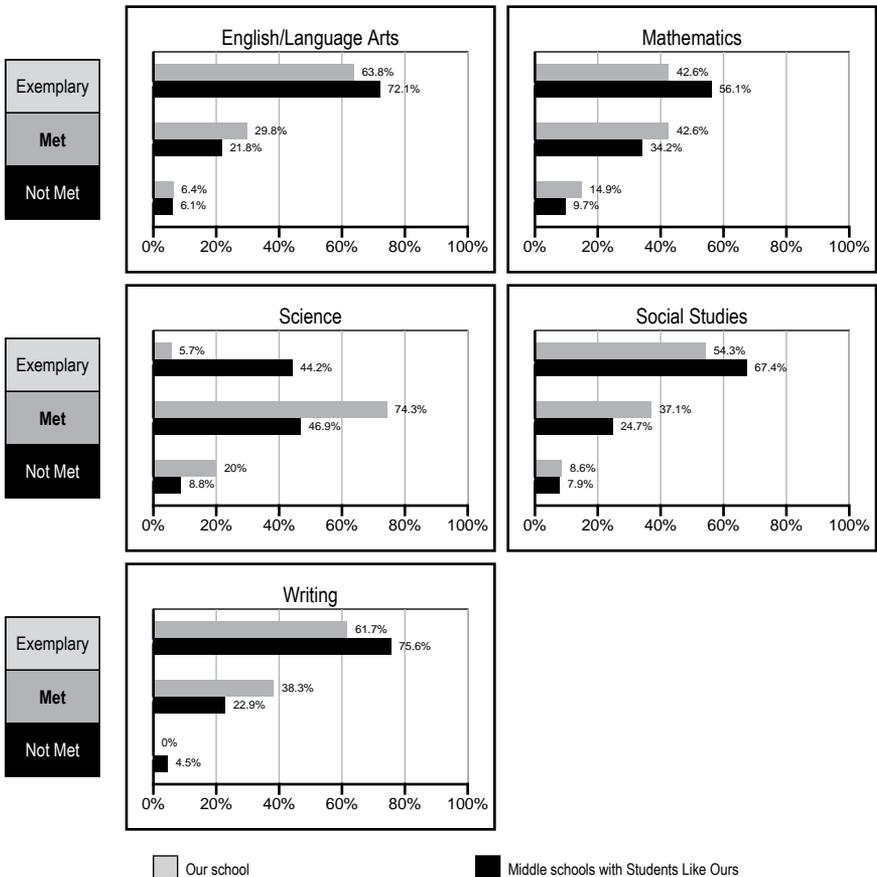
95.7%

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
3	0	0	0	0

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 03/14/2014.

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)



* Middle schools with Students Like Ours are middle schools with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for the school.

Definition of Critical Terms

Exemplary	"Exemplary" means the student demonstrated exemplary performance in meeting the grade level standard.
Met	"Met" means the student met the grade level standard.
Not Met	"Not Met" means that the student did not meet the grade level standard.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

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

End of Course Tests

Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our Middle School	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	N/A	97.2%
English 1	N/A	N/A
Physical Science	N/A	N/A
US History and the Constitution	N/A	N/A
All Subjects	N/A	97.2%

School Profile

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
Students (n=48)				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	0.0%	N/R	47.1%	24.6%
Retention rate	0.0%	N/A	0.0%	0.6%
Attendance rate	97.3%	N/A	97.1%	95.9%
Served by gifted and talented program	56.3%	N/A	51.1%	18.5%
With disabilities	8.3%	N/A	8.3%	13.0%
Older than usual for grade	0.0%	N/A	0.0%	4.8%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0%	N/R	0.0%	0.6%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	N/A	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=5)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	40.0%	N/A	40.0%	61.5%
Continuing contract teachers	20.0%	N/A	57.9%	77.2%
Teachers returning from previous year	N/A	N/A	91.1%	85.9%
Teacher attendance rate	99.6%	N/R	93.7%	94.9%
Average teacher salary*	N/A	I/S	\$45,894	\$47,313
Professional development days/teacher	10.0 days	N/R	10.0 days	10.1 days
School				
Principal's years at school	1.0	N/R	1.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	24.0 to 1	N/R	23.2 to 1	22.1 to 1
Prime instructional time	96.9%	N/R	90.8%	89.6%
Opportunities in the arts	Fair	N/R	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	No	N/R	No	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	N/R	100.0%	99.0%
Character development program	Good	N/R	Excellent	Good
Dollars spent per pupil**	N/A	N/A	\$8,608	\$7,239
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	N/A	N/A	63.5%	63.0%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	N/A	N/A	57.5%	61.0%

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

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

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Report of Principal and School Improvement Council

The inaugural year of Youth Leadership Academy Charter School was a great one.

Our FitnessGram results show remarkable gains in students' physical fitness, with 100% of our students making improvements in one or more fitness component tests, and an increase from 26 of 48 students in their Healthy Zone on the Pacer test in the fall to 43 of 48 students in their Healthy Zone on the Pacer test at spring testing. Perhaps most significant is that 100% of our students reported a more positive view of their physical fitness level and personal health in the spring than at the beginning of the year.

Anecdotal evidence also shows that YLA was successful in creating an environment conducive to teamwork and citizenship, as parent chaperones on end-of-the-year field trips reported unparalleled behavior and cooperation among their groups. Our students raised money and made donations to five charitable organizations this school year, as well, reaching out into the community and not only becoming aware of the needs around them, but making a contribution toward those needs, as well.

As a first year participant in the TAP-SC Teacher and Student Advancement Program, staff members were consistently challenged to make the learning environment more amenable to student success. We are very excited to be able to fully participate during the coming school year, with a full-time TAP Master Teacher on staff. We look forward to more meaningful staff development and exposure to new techniques and strategies that will raise the bar for both staff and students.

The principal and two incoming staff participated in Black Belt Common Core training this year, so we are ready for this challenging transition.

All students participated in career preparation this school year, with regular exposure to a wide variety of vocational experiences through the core curriculum and special presentations. All students did the SCOIS (S.C. Occupational Information System) survey, participated in career-shadowing directly related to their survey results, and created career presentations for the entire student body. Over fifteen guest speakers from around the world spoke with our students during the school year, broadening their international perspective and bringing the world to our door.

We look forward to convening our Parent Advisory Committee in July 2013, which will also serve as our School Improvement Council and School Health Advisory Committee.

We also experienced struggles in our first year, as both staff and students were immersed in a new way of learning through the teacher-as-facilitator model. Our building was not quite ready on the first day of school, and we worked through several "bugs" with the building and technology during the first few weeks of school. Overall, families were very understanding with our first year "growing pains," and we look forward to an even more successful second year of operation as we add eighth grade and bring in a double cohort of sixth grade students for the 2013/2014 school year.

Patsy Wood Smith, MEd, NBCT, Principal
Lori Durham, MEd, Governing Board Chair

Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	4	22	19
Percent satisfied with learning environment	N/A	95.5%	94.8%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	N/A	95.4%	100%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	N/A	100%	95%

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

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ESEA/Federal Accountability Rating System

In July 2013, 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	100.0
Overall Grade Conversion	A

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

Youth Leadership 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 and Student Attendance

	Our District	State
Classes in low poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	11.8%	2.3%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	14.8%	4.9%

	Our School	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	46.2%	0.0%	No
Student attendance rate	97.3%	94.0%*	Yes

* Or greater than last year

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Performance By Group

Subgroups	ELA Mean	Math Mean	Science Mean	Social Studies Mean	ELA % Tested	Math % Tested
Grades 6-8						
All Students	681.8	665.6	627.5	666.4	100.0	100.0
Male	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Female	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
White	681.8	665.6	627.5	666.4	100.0	100.0
African American	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Asian/Pacific Islander	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
American Indian/Alaskan	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
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Subsidized meals	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	628.0	628.0	628.0	628.0	95.0	95.0

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PASS Performance By Grade Level

	Grade	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Not Met	% Met	% Exemplary	% Met or Exemplary
English/Language Arts							
2012	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2013	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	24	100	4.2	33.3	62.5	95.8
	7	24	100	8.7	26.1	65.2	91.3
	8	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mathematics							
2012	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2013	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	24	100	8.3	58.3	33.3	91.7
	7	24	100	21.7	26.1	52.2	78.3
	8	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Science							
2012	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2013	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	12	100	8.3	83.3	8.3	91.7
	7	24	100	26.1	69.6	4.3	73.9
	8	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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PASS Performance By Grade Level

	Grade	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Not Met	% Met	% Exemplary	% Met or Exemplary
Social Studies							
2012	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2013	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	12	100	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	100
	7	24	100	13	21.7	65.2	87
	8	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Writing							
2012	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2013	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	24	100	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	100
	7	24	100	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	100
	8	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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