



# SC Annual School Report Card Summary

**James Simons Elementary School**  
**CHARLESTON**  
**Grades: PK-5** Enrollment: **201**  
**Principal: Quenetta G. White**  
**Superintendent: Dr. Nancy J. McGinley**  
**Board Chair: Mrs. Cindy Bohn Coats**

## 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		ESEA/FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING SYSTEM	
			General Performance	Closing the Gap	ESEA Grade	Accountability Indicator
2014	Below Average	At-Risk	TBD	TBD	F	N/A
2013	Average	Good	SILVER	N/A	F	N/A
2012	Average	Good	SILVER	N/A	A	Reward

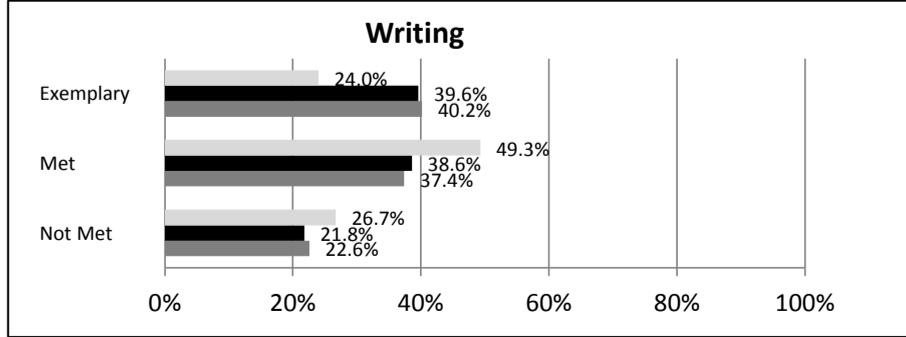
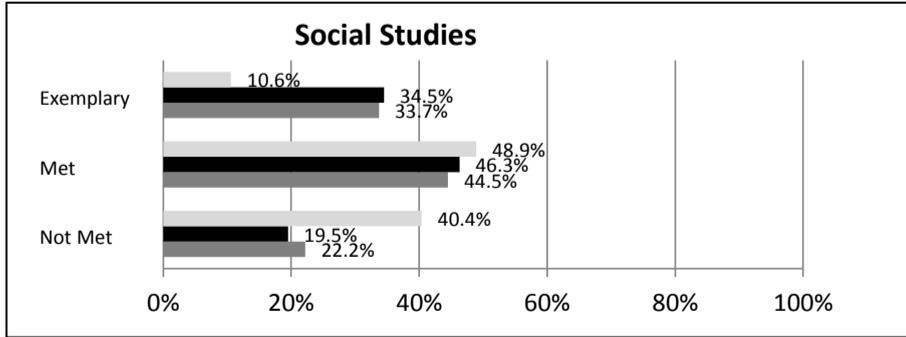
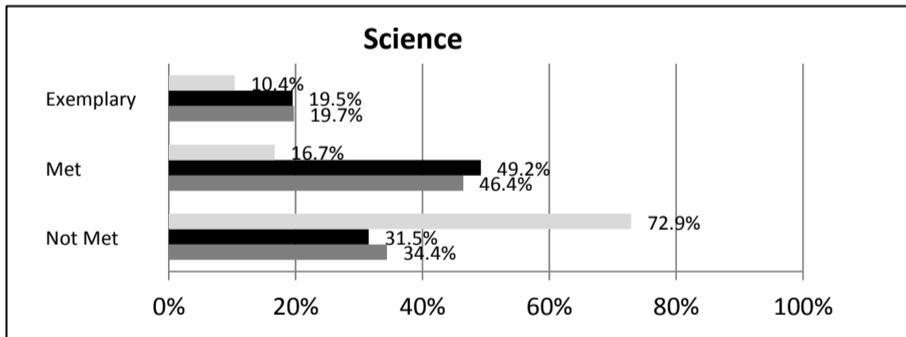
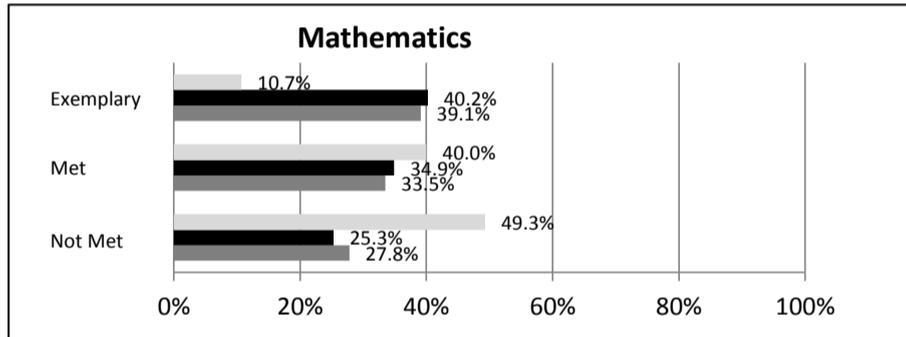
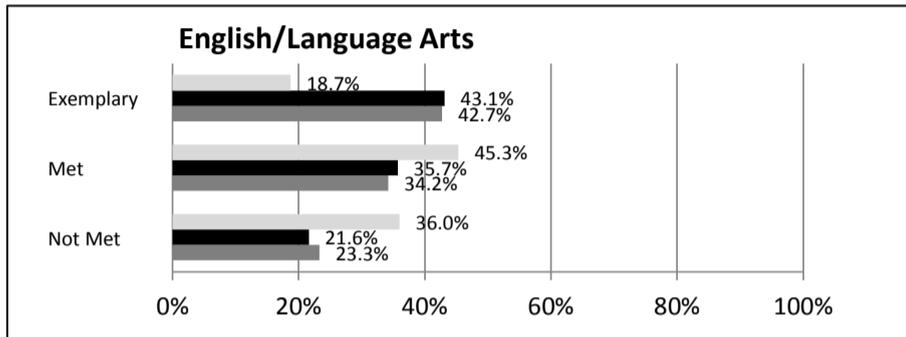
## ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS\*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
27	53	40	2	1

\* Ratings are calculated with data available by 04/27/2015. Schools with Students Like Ours are Elementary Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

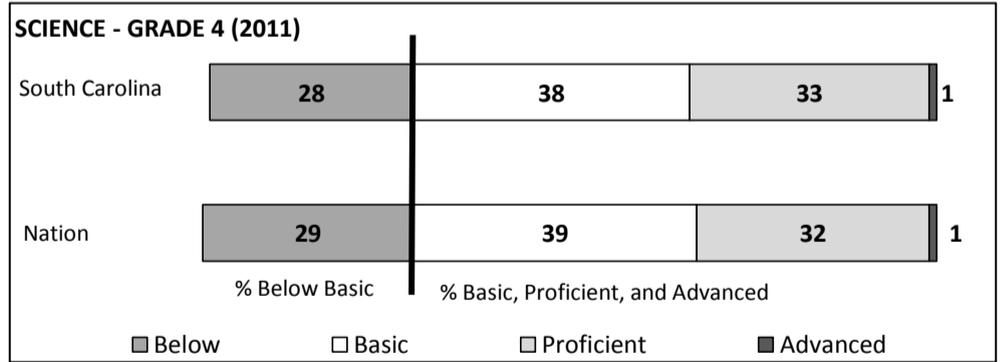
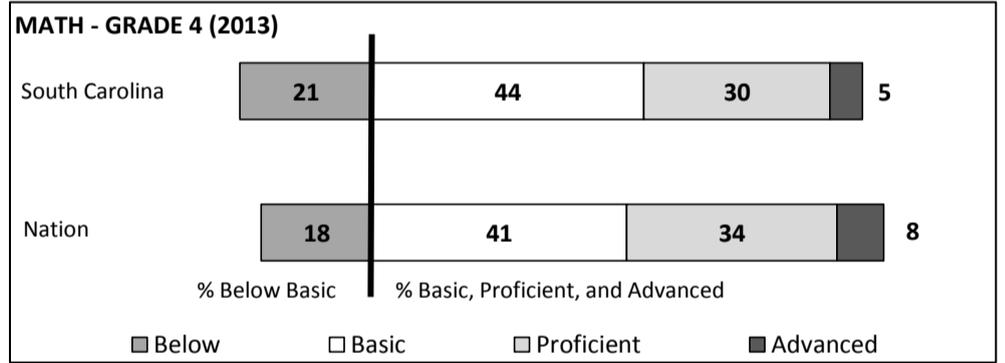
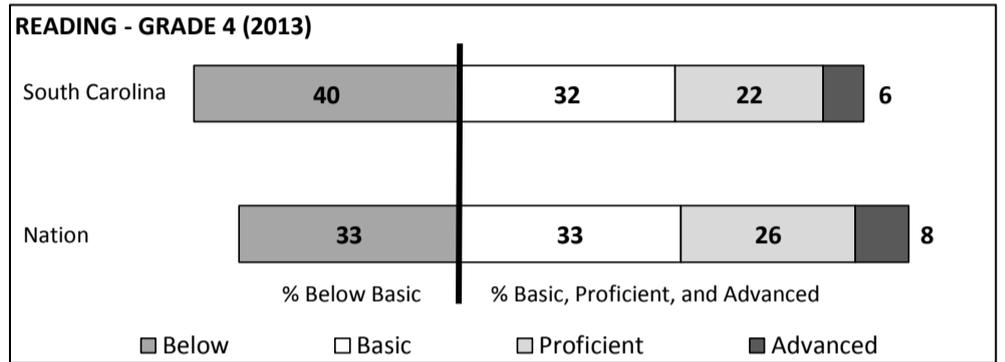
## SC PASS PERFORMANCE

Our School    Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours    Elem Schools Statewide



## NAEP\*

\*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

**James Simons Elementary School  
CHARLESTON**

**SCHOOL PROFILE**

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary Schools
<b>Students (n = 201)</b>				
Retention rate	0.0%	Down from 0.6%	1.1%	1.0%
Attendance rate	95.7%	Up from 95.6%	96.4%	96.5%
Served by gifted and talented program	6.8%	Up from 1.0%	7.5%	7.3%
With disabilities	5.3%	Down from 9.3%	13.4%	12.5%
Older than usual for grade	2.9%	Down from 4.1%	2.1%	1.8%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	1.5%	Up from 1.3%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Teachers (n = 22)</b>				
Teachers with advanced degrees	54.5%	Up from 36.4%	60.7%	62.3%
Continuing contract teachers	54.5%	Down from 63.6%	83.8%	81.2%
Teachers returning from previous year	67.4%	Down from 83.9%	89.4%	88.4%
Teacher attendance rate	98.5%	Up from 96.7%	95.3%	95.3%
Average teacher salary*	\$43,230	Up 3.9%	\$48,393	\$47,902
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	7.8%	Up from 0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Professional development days/teacher	14.5 days	Up from 13.0 days	10.3 days	10.9 days
<b>School</b>				
Principal's years at school	2.0	Up from 1.0	5.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	9.3 to 1	Down from 13.3 to 1	19.8 to 1	19.9 to 1
Prime instructional time	92.6%	Up from 92.2%	90.3%	90.7%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	No	No change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	97.1%	Down from 100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Character development program	Good	No change	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$89,276	Up 571.4%	\$7,448	\$7,680
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	54.8%	Down from 56.0%	67.5%	66.8%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	54.3%	Up from 54.0%	66.5%	66.0%
ESEA composite index score	55.3	Up from 52.8	87.4	85.7

\* Length of contract = 185+ days.

\*\*Prior year audited financial data available.

**EVALUATION RESULTS**

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	25	9	9
Percent satisfied with learning environment	100.0%	-4.0%	-4.0%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	100.0%	-4.0%	-4.0%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	100.0%	-4.0%	-4.0%

\*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**

James Simons Elementary (JSE) in downtown Charleston is a Title I school with a Montessori focus. We currently serve children three years old to grade six, with an enrollment of 254 students. Our staff have very high standards for themselves as well as each student and are passionate about teaching and learning. They have created a positive, nurturing school environment. To increase scores in all disciplines, we have adopted the Montessori curriculum, which promotes children's inherent love of learning by giving them the opportunity to be spontaneous and engage in meaningful activities under the guidance of a trained instructor. Montessori classrooms provide prepared environments where children are driven naturally to work and learn. They develop concentration, motivation, persistence, self-discipline and within this framework of order they progress at their own pace and rhythm according to their individual capabilities. The organized curriculum presents lessons simply and concretely in the early years, re-introducing them in subsequent years in more abstract and complex presentations.

Professional Development is an integral part of our school week based on a variety of school data. Students in all grades have increased literacy and numeracy skills as measured by research-based assessment tools. A Response to Intervention Model (RTI) is fully implemented at JSE and resulted in an increase in student performance. Increased student leadership and decision making is in place through Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS). PBIS is practiced school-wide with student recognition for appropriate choices in and out of school. Our goal for PBIS is to improve immediate behavior as well as to provide students with life skills necessary for positive and productive decision making. Our PBIS model is shared with families to assist with the transition of concepts within the home.

Collaboration with community agencies continues in an effort to provide assistance for specific student and family needs. Parents are provided information and resources to enhance student learning throughout the school year. Communication includes on-going parent sessions, student agenda books, daily homework folder, weekly courier information, monthly calendar of events, newsletters, phone calls, e-mails, report cards, monthly progress reports, notes and conferences.

James Simons Elementary is one of four schools in the Charleston Promise Neighborhood (CPN). The CPN is a nonprofit organization modeled after the highly successful Harlem Children's Zone project and is designed to ensure that every child and family has supports they need to thrive. The goal of CPN is to transform families within a generation. A few of the services provided through CPN include a health clinic, mental health services, and a college culture curriculum.

Continuous effort to increase parental involvement includes vigorously recruiting parents to attend school events, volunteer, and participate in decision-making teams. We believe that community involvement is a vital component of school success and are proud of our committed partners – two Universities, several churches, our mayor's office, and several local businesses.

Quenetta G. White, Principal

Pamela Bryant, SIC Chair

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