



# SC Annual School Report Card Summary

**Independence Elementary**  
**YORK 3 - ROCK HILL**  
**Grades: PK-5** Enrollment: **547**  
**Principal: Jill Pappas**  
**Superintendent: Mr. John Taylor, Interim**  
**Board Chair: Jim Vining**

## 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	Good	Average	TBD	TBD	B	Reward
2013	Good	Average	N/A	N/A	B	Reward
2012	Good	Excellent	GOLD	GOLD	B	Reward

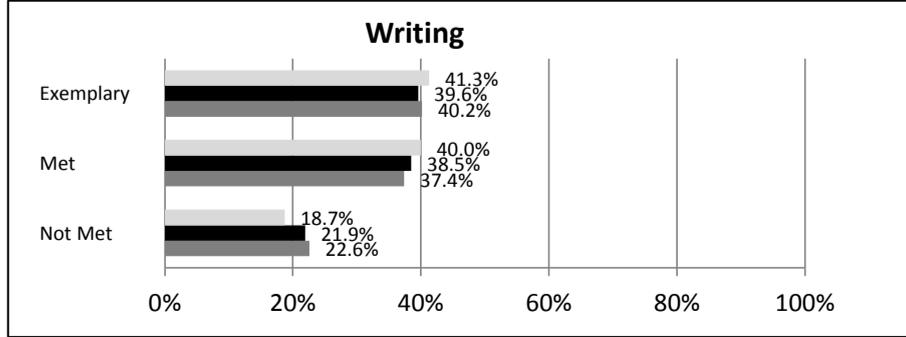
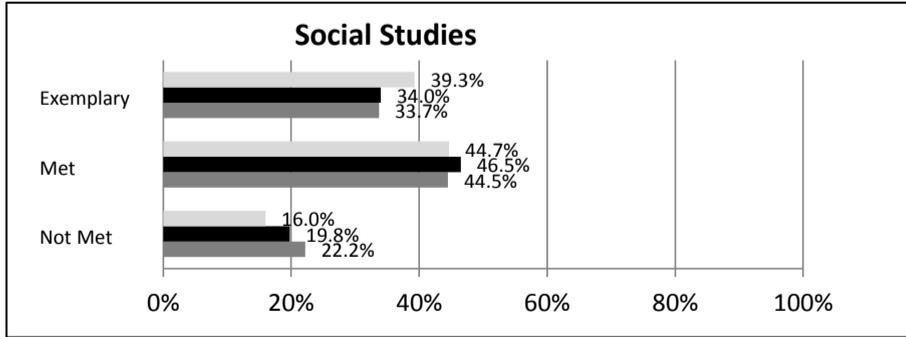
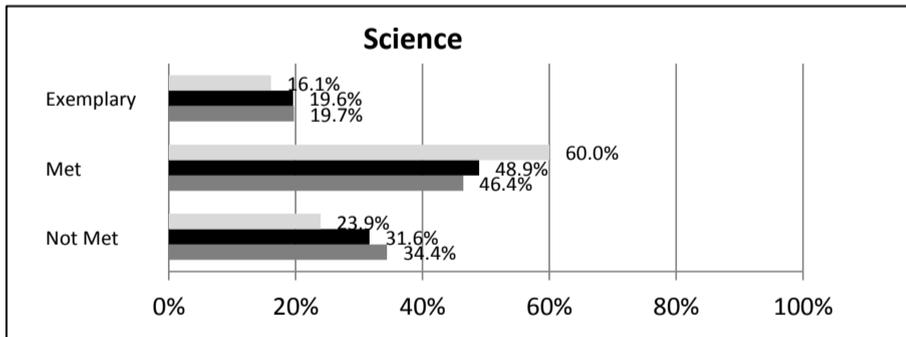
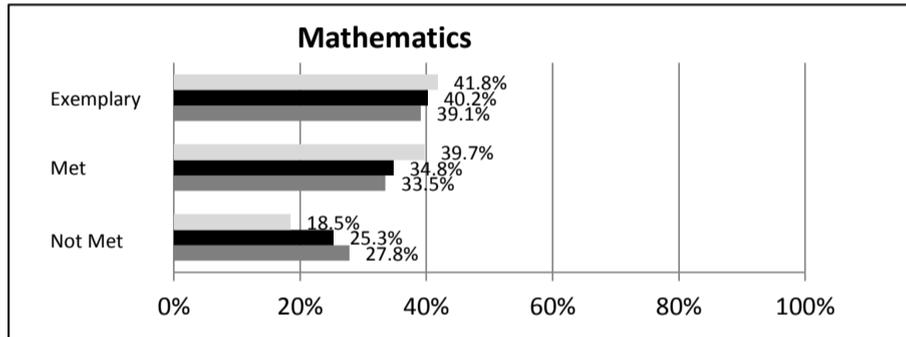
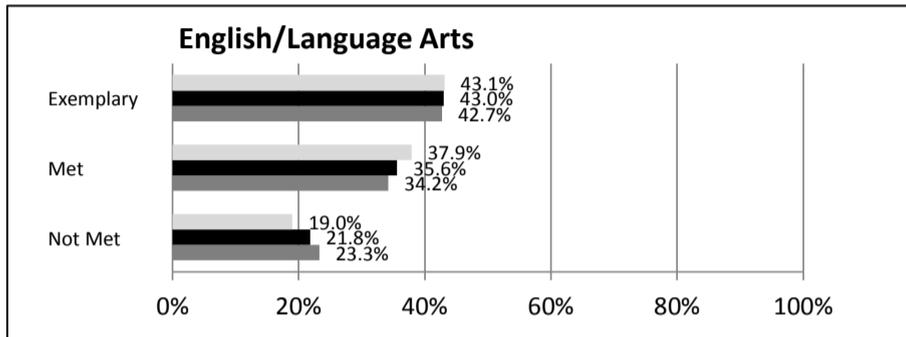
## ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS\*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
26	53	42	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.

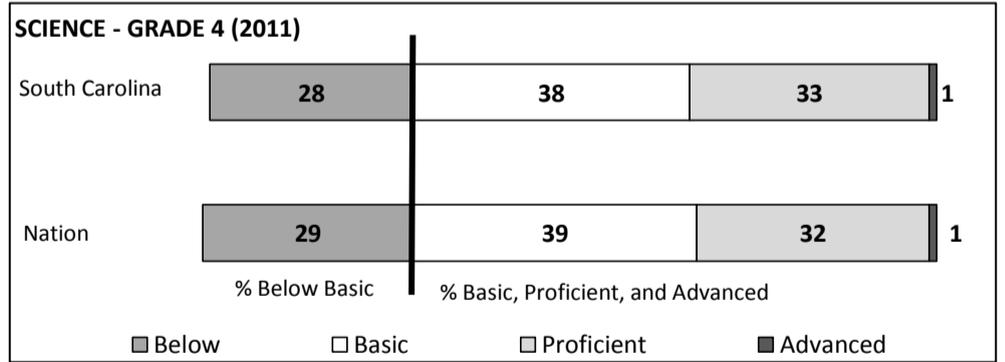
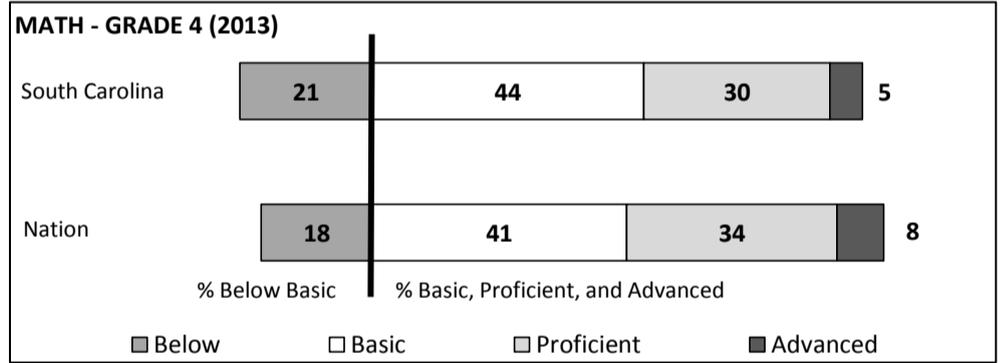
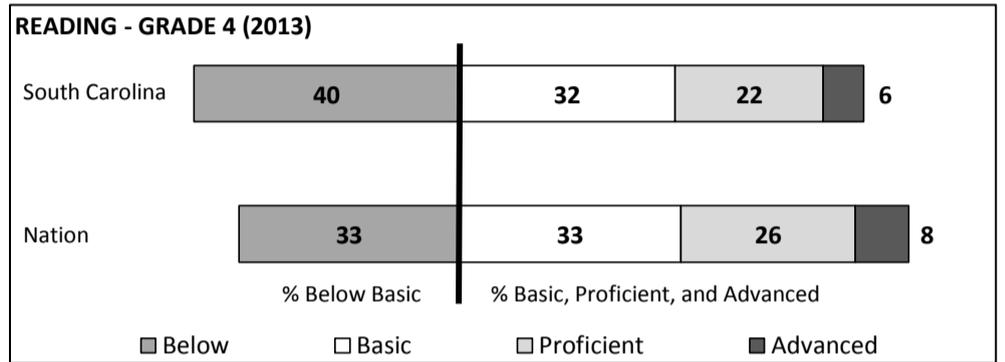
## SC PASS PERFORMANCE

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

**Independence Elementary  
YORK 3 - ROCK HILL**

**SCHOOL PROFILE**

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary Schools
<b>Students (n = 547)</b>				
Retention rate	0.4%	Up from 0.2%	1.1%	1.0%
Attendance rate	95.9%	No change	96.4%	96.5%
Served by gifted and talented program	7.3%	Up from 7.0%	7.6%	7.3%
With disabilities	10.0%	Down from 11.3%	13.4%	12.5%
Older than usual for grade	0.4%	Down from 0.9%	2.1%	1.8%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No change	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Teachers (n = 35)</b>				
Teachers with advanced degrees	62.9%	Down from 64.7%	60.7%	62.3%
Continuing contract teachers	80.0%	Down from 85.3%	83.3%	81.2%
Teachers returning from previous year	94.7%	Up from 91.7%	89.2%	88.4%
Teacher attendance rate	96.2%	Down from 96.3%	95.3%	95.3%
Average teacher salary*	\$49,859	Up 1.0%	\$48,238	\$47,902
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	No change	0.0%	0.0%
Professional development days/teacher	13.4 days	Up from 12.4 days	10.4 days	10.9 days
<b>School</b>				
Principal's years at school	1.0	Down from 3.0	5.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	22.0 to 1	Down from 22.3 to 1	19.8 to 1	19.9 to 1
Prime instructional time	90.3%	Down from 91.0%	90.4%	90.7%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	97.5%	Down from 99.5%	100.0%	100.0%
Character development program	Good	No change	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$5,702	Down 6.5%	\$7,437	\$7,680
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	72.8%	Down from 74.0%	67.5%	66.8%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	71.8%	Down from 72.0%	66.5%	66.0%
ESEA composite index score	85.3	Down from 89.4	87.1	85.7

\* Length of contract = 185+ days.

\*\*Prior year audited financial data available.

**EVALUATION RESULTS**

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	35	84	27
Percent satisfied with learning environment	97.2%	95.3%	100.0%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	94.3%	90.6%	81.5%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	82.9%	94.1%	66.7%

\*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**

Independence Elementary School (IDES) is a suburban Title I school that serves a diverse population of over 575 students in grades 4K–5. IDES believes that nothing is more important than children. We are continually committed to the social, emotional, and academic development of every child. Our school is a safe, challenging, caring, and supportive environment where teachers, parents, students, and community members work together to ensure all Independence students have a solid foundation for life. We strive to make the learning experiences at Independence fun and engaging while holding everyone accountable for reaching his or her highest potential.

IDES has celebrated many successes in the 2013-14 school year. IDES was one of four elementary schools to receive the recognition as a “Reward School for Performance”, indicating that IDES is one of the highest performing Title I schools for the school year. IDES achieved 95.71% of its objectives in ELA and 85.71% of its objectives in mathematics.

We continue to implement our School Improvement Plan (SIP), which is directly aligned to the District Strategic Plan. The three main goals of the SIP are continually implemented and monitored for fidelity of implementation: Quality Work Design/Delivery of effective Tier I Instruction, Shared Vision & Beliefs, and Nurturing Environment. To continue to improve the quality of instruction, teachers utilize Tiered Instruction through Response to Interventions (RtI). Response to Intervention implementation includes Tier I instruction with fidelity, Tier II targeted interventions, and Tier III intensive support. School-wide nurturing environment has been supported through the implementation of Positive Behavior Intervention & Supports (PBIS) framework. PBIS is a systemic approach to proactive, school-wide behavior based on the RtI model, which includes strategies for all students to increase academic performance, improve safety, decrease problem behavior, and establish a positive school culture. A unified IDES mission/vision was developed for IDES to insure the entire school community is united as it moves forward. The mission/vision is in direct alignment with the SIP and District Strategic Plan.

We continue to provide many programs to help our students be successful and well-rounded. Students have an array of opportunities in which to participate, including Dance Team, Step Team, Lady Patriots, Recycling Club, Battle of the Books, Safety Patrol, Tech Squad, Girls on the Run, and Patriot Council. Community connections continued to improve through planned PTO, Title I, and school events including a Fall Festival, Fun Run, CSI Night, Super Hero Math, Lunch & Learn, Donuts with Dads, Muffins with Moms, Books & Blankets, Watch D.O.G.S. Dads, and grade-level Field Studies.

Independence Elementary believes in the power of technology. Independence was the 1st school in the district to hold a Parent Information Night about the district’s iRock initiative. All 4th & 5th grade students have an iPad assigned to them to use during the school day for a true 1:1 environment. We currently have a 2nd grade challenged-based learning class and have purchased many iPads which are used school-wide. Students are encouraged to bring their own devices to use as well. We believe in iRock: Learning Anytime, Anywhere!

Jill Pappas, Principal

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