

Laurens County School District 55

1029 West Main Street

Laurens, SC 29360



South Carolina State Report Card

State and federal laws require public schools to release report cards to the public each year. This year, the report card has been updated to reflect changes in reporting directed by the SC Education Oversight Committee. Schools will not be rated for state accountability purposes until Fall 2017 when the state will transition to a single accountability system. The following reports student performance in school year 2014-15.

Grades: PK-12 District
Enrollment: 6,082 students
District Phone: 864-984-3568
District Website: <http://www.laurens55.org>

Superintendent: Dr. Billy R. Strickland
Board Chair: Mrs. Susan Calhoun-Ware



Profile of the SC Graduate

World Class Knowledge

- Rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness
- Multiple languages, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), arts and social sciences*

World Class Skills

- Creativity and innovation
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Communication, information, media and technology
- Knowing how to learn

Life and Career Characteristics

- Integrity
- Self-direction
- Global perspective
- Perseverance
- Work ethic
- Interpersonal skills

WORLD CLASS SKILLS & LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

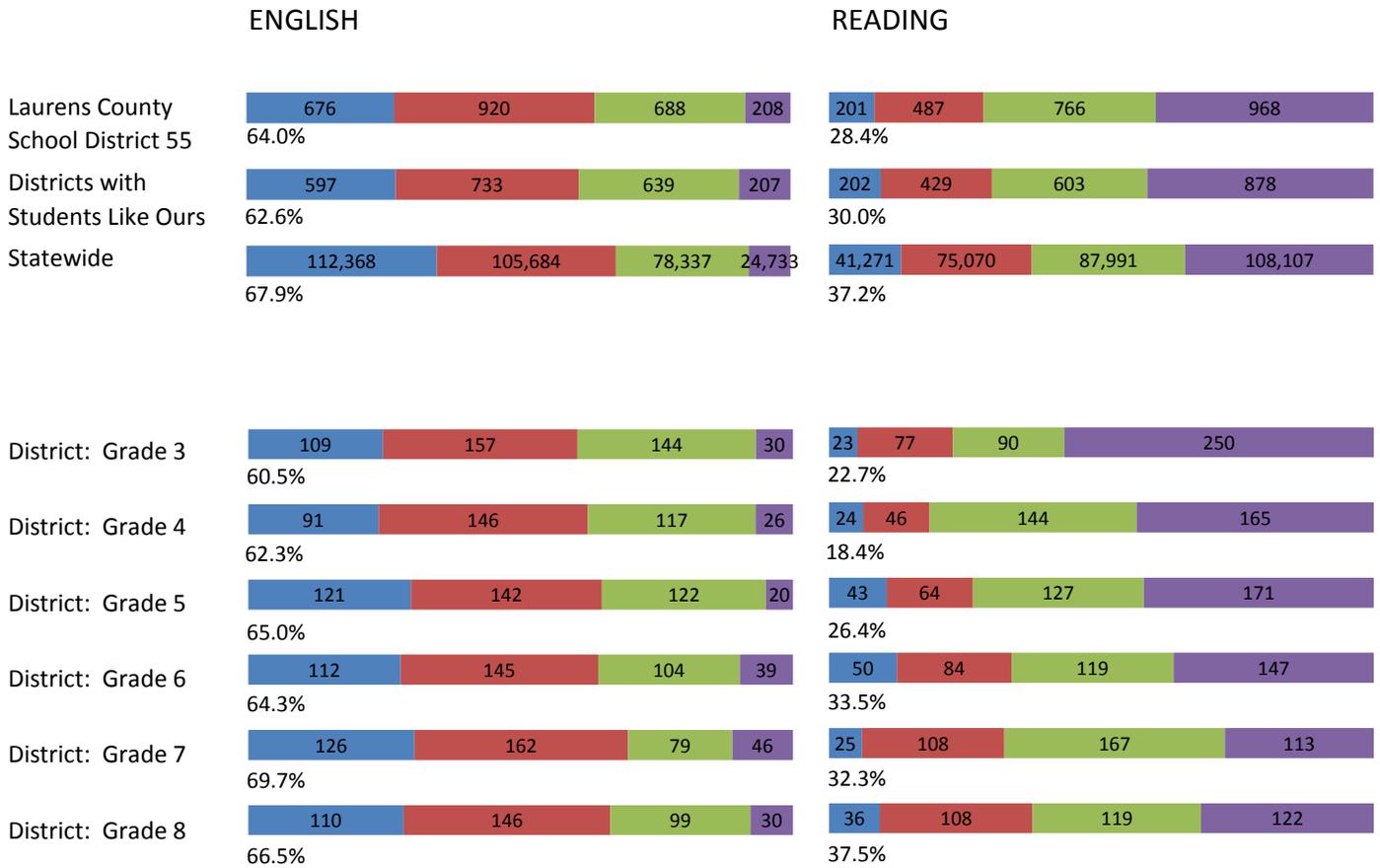
Our district is helping all students develop the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the Graduate by ...

Laurens 55 is helping all students develop the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the Graduate through implementation of the district vision to “be a system of excellence and equity in educational practices for each learner.” Our students are challenged to reach their full potential by teachers who are highly qualified. Various programs are used in the classroom to help students learn skills that will help to ensure success in life. Instructors from the Presbyterian College Confucius Institute work with students to teach Chinese culture, language, and art. Students may take dual enrollment Chinese through Presbyterian College. Three academic teams competed in the State Championship of Academics where one middle school was first runner-up. The district provided Chromebooks to all ninth and tenth graders. Each year incoming ninth graders will receive a Chromebook. The graduation rate increased from 64.30 percent in 2010 to 79.68 percent in 2014. The 2014 State Report Card rated the district as “Good” for Absolute Performance and “Excellent” for Growth. GEAR UP is a seven-year \$9.6 million grant shared by Laurens 55 and three additional school districts. The grant is designed to increase the number of low-income students who are prepared to enter and succeed in postsecondary education. Objectives are to increase academic performance, graduation rate and expectations. The program includes all seventh graders in Laurens 55 and follows them until their first year of postsecondary education. Carolina Alliance for Technology is a four-year \$7 million grant Laurens 55 shares with three districts. The program helps students learn skills to secure jobs in computer science and engineering. Partnerships with employers will provide work-based learning and mentoring programs. Through collaboration with institutions of higher learning, students will receive college credit for their computer science and engineering courses. Students will leave the program with a national certificate or two years of college credit. Montessori is offered as a choice in elementary and middle school grades. All teachers of English Learners and Special Education students receive professional development to meet individual student needs. Our strong athletics and arts programs provide opportunities for students to develop characteristics and skills to ensure success in life. Thank you for all of your support in helping in the development of our future graduates into citizens who are critical thinkers, problem solvers, and capable leaders. Billy R. Strickland, Ed.D. Superintendent

* 21st Century core courses in Social Sciences include History, Geography, Economics, Government and Civics.

KNOWLEDGE

The ACT Aspire assessment was given to students in grades 3-8 in Spring 2015. Students were assessed in the subject areas of Reading, English, Mathematics and Writing



Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A-Not Applicable

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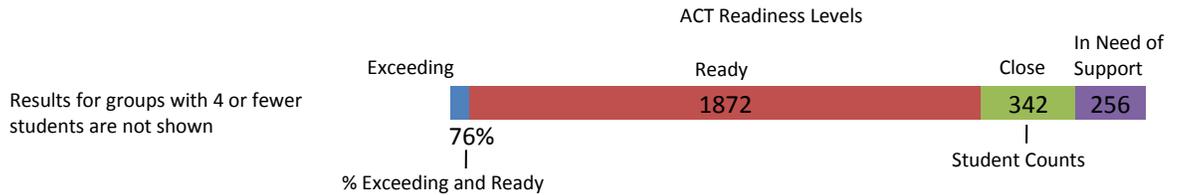
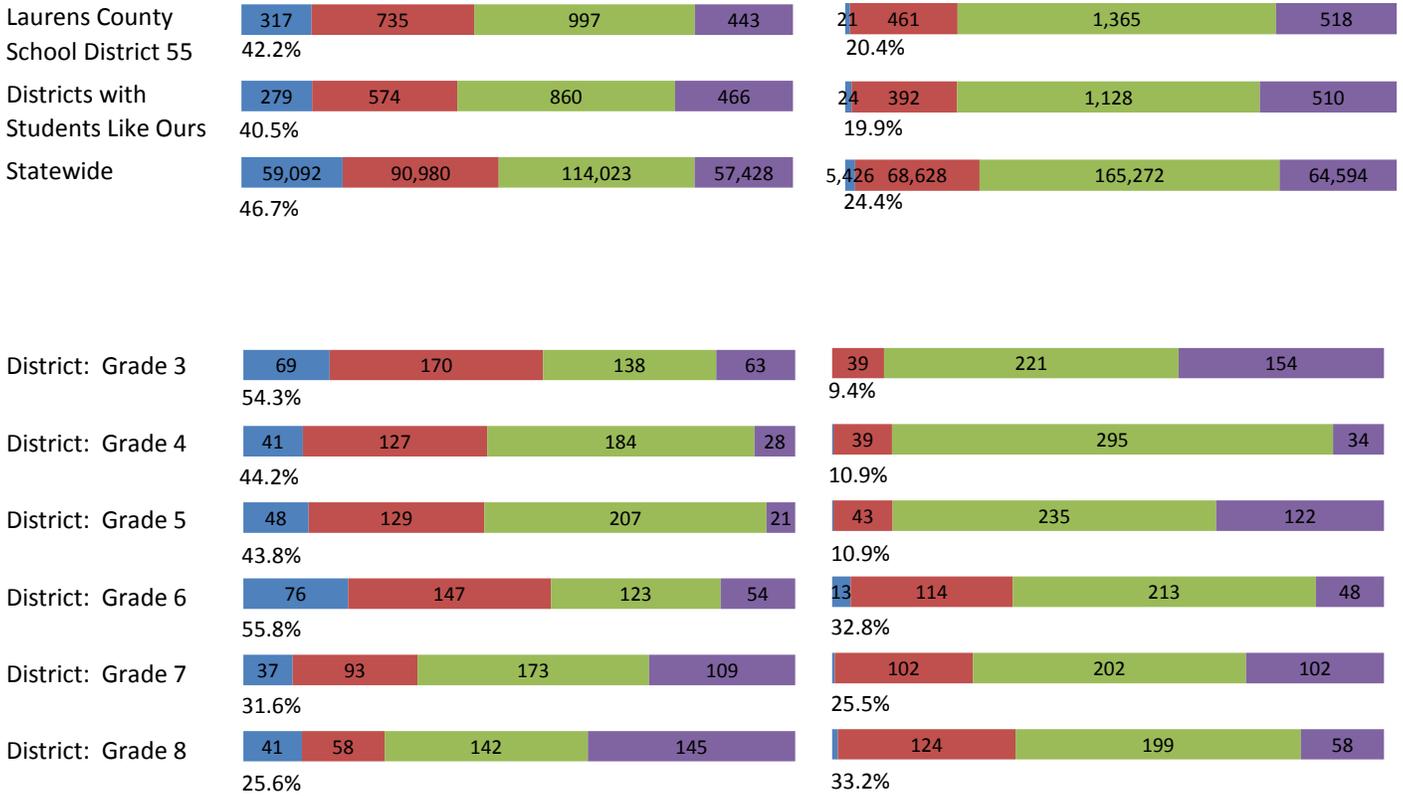
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KNOWLEDGE

MATHEMATICS

WRITING



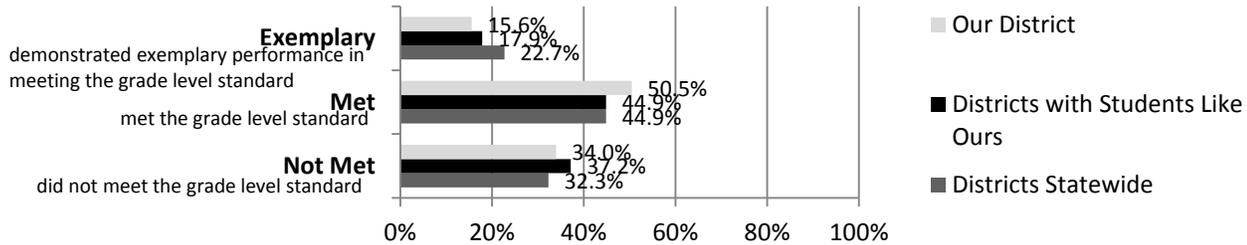
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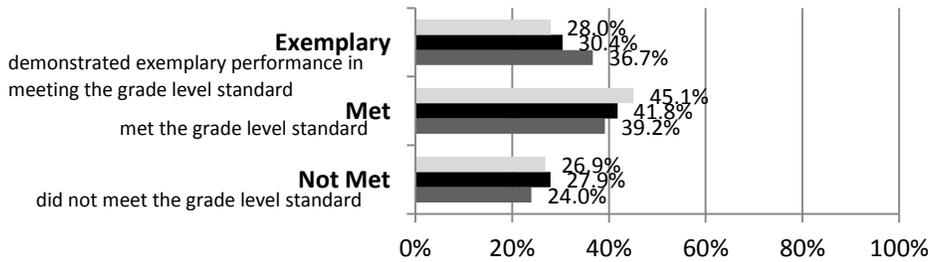
KNOWLEDGE

The SC Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SCPASS) was given to students in grades 4 - 8 in Spring 2015. Students were assessed in the subject areas of Science and Social Studies.

Science



Social Studies



Science SCPASS

Our District: Percent Met and Above for each grade level

4th grade	5th grade	6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
68.9	60.5	64.2	71.2	65.2

Social Studies SCPASS

Our District: Percent Met and Above for each grade level

4th grade	5th grade	6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
83.2	64.2	73.8	69.9	75.6

Note: Results include SC-Alt assessment results.

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

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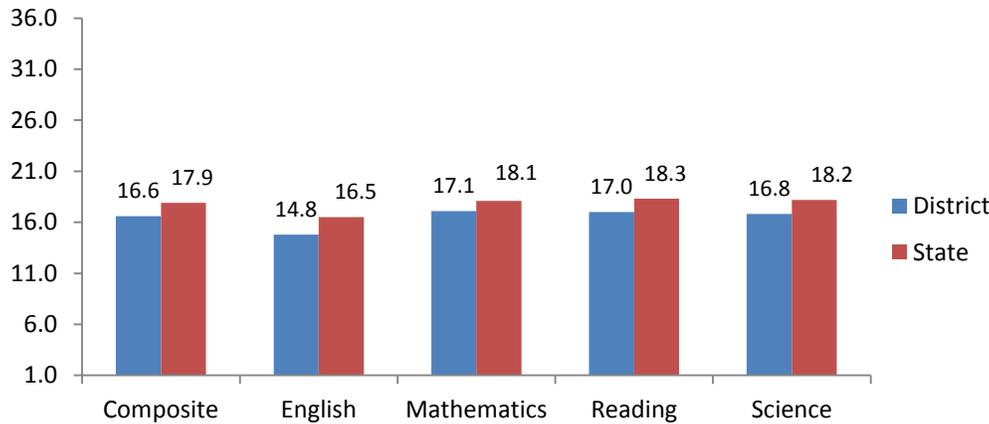
KNOWLEDGE

End of Course Tests			
Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our District	Districts with Students Like Ours	State
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	75.8	83.8	85.7
English 1	70.5	68.9	75.1
Biology 1	71.6	71.4	77.8
US History and the Constitution	73.3	60.0	69.1
All Subjects	72.9	71.5	77.3

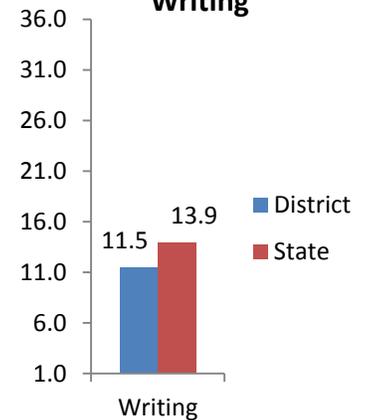
Districts with Students Like Ours are districts with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for the district.

The ACT, a college readiness assessment, was given to every South Carolina 11th grader in 2015 with the exception of those eligible for alternate assessments. The ACT scores range from 0 to 36. The district and state averages are included for comparison. State averages for ACT data are based on regular public schools and do not include private schools in the state.

Average ACT Score Achieved by Students: English, Math, Reading, Science, Composite of all four tests, 2015



Average ACT Score Achieved by Students: Writing



Percent of Students in District Meeting ACT College-Ready Benchmarks, 2015				
English Benchmark Score: 18	Math Benchmark Score: 22	Reading Benchmark Score: 22	Science Benchmark Score: 23	All 4 Subjects
26.5	15.2	18.5	11.6	7.3

ACT benchmarks are scores on the ACT subject-area tests that represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing first-year college courses.

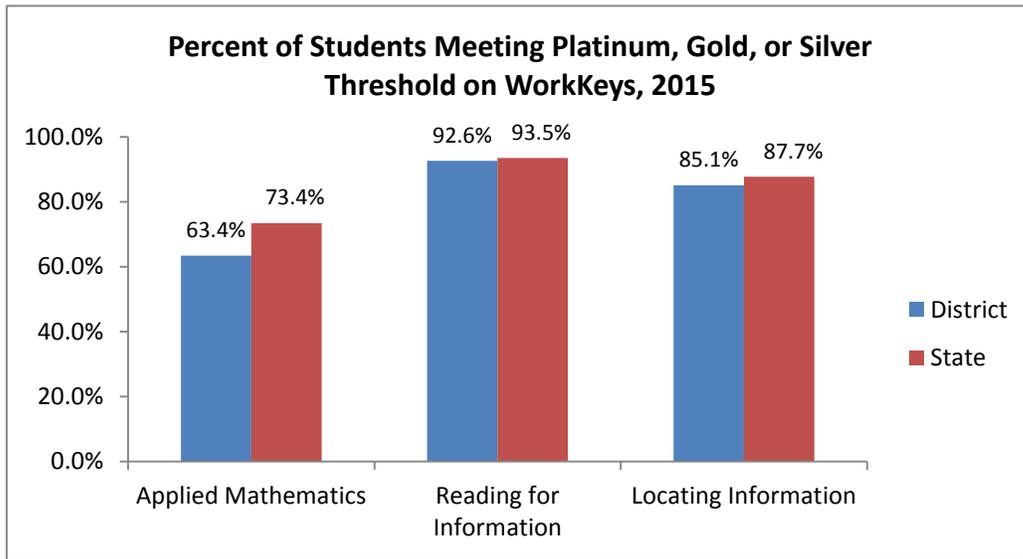
The ACT is a registered trademark of ACT, Inc.

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KNOWLEDGE

ACT WorkKeys is a job skills assessment system measuring "real world" skills that employers believe are critical in the workplace. The assessment is given to every South Carolina 11th grader with the exception of those eligible for alternative assessments. The assessment consists of three subtests: Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information. Students can earn certificates at the Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze level on WorkKeys assessments.



District SAT Performance				
Percent of Students Tested	Average Critical Reading Score	Average Math Score	Average Writing Score	Average Composite Score
30.4	456	476	425	1357

The highest composite score on the SAT is a 2400. For each of the three sections of the test, the highest score is 800.

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OUTCOMES

State Graduation Rate	
Four-Year	Five-Year
80.3	82.0

District Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate			
2015	2014	2013	2012
79.0	79.7	73.8	71.5

District Five-Year Cohort Graduation Rate			
2015	2014	2013	2012
80.5	77.2	75.8	70.2

Percentage of Seniors Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	
District	State
27.9	42.2

Percentage of Students from 2014 Graduating Class Enrolled in a two- or four-year college or technical college pursuing an associates degree, certificate, or diploma in Fall 2014	
District	State
53.2	70.3

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OPPORTUNITIES**For students to meet the profile of the SC Graduate**

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with students like ours
Students (n = 6,082)			
Percent of students participating in Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF; homeless, foster, or migrant students (poverty index)	78.4	Down from 82.8%	N/A
Attendance Rate	95.1	Down from 95.9%	94.7
With disabilities	16.3	Down from 16.7%	13.9
Out of school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.3	No change	0.7
Percentage of students served by gifted and talented programs	10.3	Down from 11.4%	11.6
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	21.5	Down from 24.2%	11.0
Successful in AP/IB programs	36.7	Up from 29.3%	44.0
Career/tech students in co-curricular organizations	3.4	N/A	2.6
Enrollment in career/technology courses	N/A	N/A	-18.0
Students participating in work-based experiences	4.8	N/A	4.8
Number of seniors who have completed FAFSA forms	177	N/A	192
Percentage of seniors completing college applications	57.1	N/A	89.9
Number of students in dual enrollment courses	159	Up from 92	95
Success rate of students in dual enrollment courses	99.3	N/A	98.7
Annual dropout rate	3.0	Down from 4.1%	2.2
Dropout recovery rate	0.0	N/A	3.1
Percentage of students retained	2.9	Up from 2.5%	2.1
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	137	Down from 206	67
Completed adult education GED or diploma program	11	Down from 28	10
Teachers (n = 368)			
Percentage of teachers with advanced degrees	56.5	Down from 56.7%	59.8
Percentage of teachers on continuing contract	78.5	Down from 78.9%	80.5
Teachers returning from previous year	91.2	Down from 91.5%	89.3
Teacher attendance rate	95.3	No change	94.9
Average teacher salary*	\$45,930	Up 0.5%	\$46,760
Professional development days / teacher	N/AV	N/A	N/AV
District-issued technology devices per teacher	N/A	N/C	N/A
Percentage of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	2.3	Down from 5.0%	3.4
Percentage of teacher vacancies for more than 9 weeks	0.0	N/A	0.6

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OPPORTUNITIES

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with students like ours
District			
Superintendent's years at district	6.0	Up from 5.0	5.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	29.5 to 1	Up from 20.8 to 1	21.6 to 1
Prime instructional time	88.8	Down from 89.4%	88.1
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No change	Excellent
Opportunities in foreign languages	Excellent	N/A	Excellent
Number of schools with AdvancEd (SACS) accreditation	11	No change	N/A
Parents attending conferences	100.0	No change	100.0
Bandwidth capacity per student	<25 Mbps	N/C	N/A
Number of schools with classroom wireless access	1.0	N/C	N/A
Do any schools plan to implement one-to-one computing	Yes	N/C	N/A
District-issued learning devices per student	N/A	N/C	N/A
Do any schools offer online or blended (50% online) courses	No	N/C	N/A
Dual enrollment courses offered	11	N/A	14
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$8,968	Up 3.7%	\$9,569
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	53.9	Up from 53.8%	52.2
Percent of expenditures for teachers' salaries**	56.3	Up from 55.4%	53.6
Average administrator salary	\$86,056	Up 1.4%	\$81,017

* Includes current year teachers contracted for 190 days or more.

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

State Ratings History of District

Year	Absolute Rating	Growth Rating
2014	Excellent	Good
2013	Average	Good
2012	Average	Excellent

Based on state law, districts will not be rated for state accountability purposes until Fall 2017.

Additional Resources

SC State Content Standards
[Family-Friendly Guides to the SC Content Standards](#)
[2014-15 Accountability Manual](#)
[Report Card Data Files](#)
[ESEA Data Files](#)

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