

State and Federal Accountability Systems 2008-2020

YEARS	RATINGS FOR SCHOOLS	RATINGS FOR DISTRICTS	STATE AND FEDERAL RATINGS- SEPARATE OR COMBINED	RATINGS SYSTEM	STATE INFORMATION	STATE PERFORMANCE LEVELS	FEDERAL INFORMATION	FEDERAL PERFORMANCE LEVELS
2008-2011	YES	YES	SEPARATE	EOC State Absolute and Improvement Ratings and Federal Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)	Beginning with the 2001 report cards, each school and district has received two state accountability system ratings, one for absolute performance level and one for growth: Absolute Rating: The level of a school's academic performance on achievement measures for the current school year. Growth Rating: The level of growth in academic performance when comparing current performance to the previous year's performance (based on longitudinally matched student data and on differences between cohorts of students when longitudinal data are not available). Growth Ratings also reflect reductions in achievement gaps between majority groups and historically underachieving groups of students as well as sustained high levels of school or district achievement.	DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS ■ Excellent: School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010/20 SC Performance Vision ■ Good: School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010/20 SC Performance Vision ■ Average: School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010/20 SC Performance Vision ■ Below Average: School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010/20 SC Performance Vision ■ At-Risk: School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010/20 SC Performance Vision ■	Definition: As required by the United States Department of Education, Adequate Yearly Progress specifies that the statewide target is met for "All Students" and for the following subgroups: Racial/Ethnic, Subsidized Meals, Disability, and Limited English Proficiency in the areas of English/Language Arts and Mathematics, as well as meeting the statewide target for "All Students" for attendance or graduation rate.	YES/NO AYP
2012-2014	YES	YES	SEPARATE	EOC State Absolute and Improvement Ratings and Federal ESEA Waiver	Beginning with the 2001 report cards, each school and district has received two state accountability system ratings, one for absolute performance level and one for growth: Absolute Rating: The level of a school's academic performance on achievement measures for the current school year. Growth Rating: The level of growth in academic performance when comparing current performance to the previous year's performance (based on longitudinally matched student data and on differences between cohorts of students when longitudinal data are not available). Growth Ratings also reflect reductions in achievement gaps between majority groups and historically underachieving groups of students as well as sustained high levels of school or district achievement.	DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS ■ Excellent: School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010/20 SC Performance Vision ■ Good: School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010/20 SC Performance Vision ■ Average: School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010/20 SC Performance Vision ■ Below Average: School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010/20 SC Performance Vision ■ At-Risk: School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010/20 SC Performance Vision ■	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.	A-F
2015-2017	NO	NO	Creating new methodology to combine state and federal ratings	PAUSED	In September, 2011, the U.S. Department of Education (ED) offered each State educational agency (SEA) the opportunity to request flexibility on behalf of itself and its local educational agencies (LEAs) and schools. This voluntary opportunity provided educators and State and local leaders with flexibility from certain requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as amended by the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB), in exchange for rigorous and comprehensive State-developed plans designed to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. Each SEA with an approved request that will expire at the end of the 2014–2015 school year may request a three-year renewal of ESEA flexibility, through the 2017–2018 school year." More information can be found here: https://www2.ed.gov/policy/eseaflex/secretary-letters/cssorenawaltr.html	PAUSED	SEE STATE INFO	PAUSED
2018-2019	YES	NO	COMBINED	South Carolina's ESSA Consolidated State Plan	The expressed goal of the accountability system is to improve teaching and learning so that students are equipped with a strong academic foundation and to ensure that all students graduate with the world-class knowledge, skills and characteristics as defined by the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. The accountability system is designed to promote high levels of student achievement through strong and effective schools.	OVERALL RATINGS SCALE Excellent: School performance substantially exceeds the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the SC Graduate Good: School performance exceeds the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the SC Graduate Average: School performance meets the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the SC Graduate Below Average: School performance is in jeopardy of not meeting the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the SC Graduate Unsatisfactory: School performance fails to meet the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the SC Graduate	The accountability system must also meet the federal requirements of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (ESEA), as reauthorized by the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) of 2015 and South Carolina's ESSA Consolidated State plan which was approved on May 3, 2018. A link to South Carolina's approved ESSA Plan is available online at https://ed.sc.gov/newsroom/every-student-succeeds-act-essa/consolidated-state-planapproved-by-usde-on-may-3-2018/ . A summary of the federal requirements in ESSA and how South Carolina chose to meet the requirements are below: ● The ESSA was enacted December 10, 2015. This reauthorization of the ESEA allows states greater flexibility in designing the school accountability system mandated under federal law. South Carolina used this opportunity to combine existing state and federal accountability requirements into one cohesive system. ● Section 1111 of the ESSA outlines the federal accountability requirements, and South Carolina's accountability system and Report Card are designed to address those requirements.	SEE STATE LEVELS
2020	NO	NO	COMBINED	South Carolina's ESSA Consolidated State Plan	On March 27, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education approved South Carolina's request to waive spring statewide assessments, accountability ratings, and certain reporting requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for the 2019-2020 school year due to widespread school closures related to the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).	COVID WAIVER	On March 27, 2020, the U.S. Department of Education approved South Carolina's request to waive spring statewide assessments, accountability ratings, and certain reporting requirements in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) for the 2019-2020 school year due to widespread school closures related to the novel Coronavirus disease (COVID-19).	COVID WAIVER