



2023-24 Report of the Accreditation of School Districts in South Carolina

Pursuant to State Board of Education Regulation 43-300

November 5, 2024

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State Superintendent of Education

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Introduction

Accountability is a key element in the success of educational improvement; therefore, for the purpose of continuing to hold South Carolina public school districts and schools accountable to the State, its taxpayers, and parents, all public school districts and schools must comply with the requirements in State Board of Education (SBE) Regulation 43-300 (R.43-300). Accreditation signifies that the public school district and/or school has met professional standards at an acceptable level and is committed to maintaining those standards.

Accreditation of Public School Districts and Schools

To ensure professional standards are being met and all students are being provided with the opportunity to meet the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate, public school districts and schools in South Carolina must choose one of the following two options:

- Option 1: Accreditation through the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) by meeting the standards in the defined program and all current statutes and regulations as prescribed by the State Board of Education and General Assembly. Detailed Option 1 procedures can be found in R.43-300(II)(A) and R.43-300(III).
- Option 2: Accreditation through an accrediting entity accepted by Higher Education (Cognia). Public school districts and schools must meet the accreditation requirements and timelines set forth by the external accrediting entity. See R.43-300(II)(B).

A list of all accreditation ratings for both Option 1 and Option 2 entities are included in the SCDE's Annual Report of the Accreditation of School Districts in South Carolina to the State Board of Education.

Compliance Monitoring

To ensure compliance with State laws, regulations, and policies, the SCDE monitors each public school district and the schools within its jurisdiction on a schedule developed and publicly posted by the SCDE. Each public school district and school shall comply with State laws, regulations, and policies, including, but not limited to, the qualifications, duties, and workloads of administrative and professional personnel, the defined program for each grade span, the Uniform Grading Policy, and the requirements for earning a South Carolina High School Diploma. See R.43-300(V).

A list of all monitored districts and any corresponding findings are included in the SCDE's Annual Report of the Accreditation of School Districts in South Carolina to the State Board of Education.

2023-24 Summary

The chart below includes the number of ...

Classification	Totals
Option 1 Districts (SCDE)	3
Option 2 Districts (Cognia)	71
Compliance Monitored Districts	18

Charter Schools

The SCDE has developed a State Charter School Accreditation process as a means to ensure South Carolina public charter schools are recognized by all stakeholders as meeting operational expectations.

The State Charter School Accreditation process uses the existing requirement that each charter school submits an annual report to its sponsor by December 31, and each sponsor must submit a report for each of their charter schools to the SCDE, Office of School Transformation, by January 31.

The criteria have been updated to include the following additional requirements:

- Each charter school must annually provide the most recent charter contract held between the charter school and the charter school sponsor.
- Each charter school must annually provide the most recent edition of its charter.
- Each charter school must annually review the Statement of Assurances for Charter Schools and submit with the signatures of the school leader and the school board chair.
- Each charter school sponsor must annually review the Statement of Assurances for Charter School Sponsors and submit with the signature of the sponsoring district's superintendent.

Completion of the above annual report requirements will result in a charter school satisfactorily meeting state charter school accreditation requirements. A listing of all state charter schools and their accreditation status will be posted to the [SCDE Charter Schools](#) webpage.

Option 1 Accredited Districts

Accreditation through the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) requires evidence of meeting the standards in the defined program and all current statutes and regulations as prescribed by the State Board of Education and General Assembly. Detailed Option 1 procedures can be found in R.43-300(II)(A), R.43-300(III), and on the [SCDE State Accountability](#) website.

District	Education Units	Final Status
Dillon School District Three	Administration	Accredited/All Clear
Dillon School District Three	Latta Elementary	Accredited/All Clear
Dillon School District Three	Latta Middle	Accredited/All Clear
Dillon School District Three	Latta High	Accredited/All Clear
Hampton County School District	Administration	Accredited/All Clear
Hampton County School District	Ben Hazel Primary	Accredited/All Clear
Hampton County School District	Brunson Elementary	Accredited/All Clear
Hampton County School District	Estill Elementary	Accredited/All Clear
Hampton County School District	Estill Elementary	Accredited/All Clear
Hampton County School District	Fennell Elementary	Accredited/All Clear
Hampton County School District	Hampton Elementary	Accredited/All Clear
Hampton County School District	North District Middle	Accredited/All Clear
Hampton County School District	Varnville Elementary	Accredited/All Clear
Hampton County School District	Hampton County High	Accredited/All Clear
Palmetto Unified School District	Administration	Accredited/All Clear
Palmetto Unified School District	Allendale High	Accredited/All Clear
Palmetto Unified School District	Broad River High	Accredited/All Clear
Palmetto Unified School District	Kirkland High	Accredited/All Clear
Palmetto Unified School District	Lee High	Accredited/All Clear
Palmetto Unified School District	Lewis High	Accredited/All Clear
Palmetto Unified School District	MacDougall High	Accredited/All Clear
Palmetto Unified School District	Manning High	Accredited/All Clear
Palmetto Unified School District	Ridgeland High	Accredited/All Clear
Palmetto Unified School District	Sara Babb High	Accredited/All Clear
Palmetto Unified School District	Trenton High	Accredited/All Clear
Palmetto Unified School District	Turbeville High	Accredited/All Clear
Palmetto Unified School District	Tyger River High	Accredited/All Clear

Option 2 Accredited Districts

Districts and schools may be accredited through an entity accepted by Higher Education (i.e., Cognia). Public school districts and schools must meet the accreditation requirements and timelines set forth by the external accrediting entity. See R.43-300(II)(B).

District	Final Status
Abbeville County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Aiken County Public School District	Accredited/Cognia
Allendale County Schools	Accredited/Cognia
Anderson School District One	Accredited/Cognia
Anderson School District Two	Accredited/Cognia
Anderson School District 3	Accredited/Cognia
Anderson School District 4	Accredited/Cognia
Anderson School District Five	Accredited/Cognia
Barnwell School District 45	Accredited/Cognia
Barnwell County Consolidated School District	Accredited/Cognia
Beaufort County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Berkeley County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Calhoun County Public Schools	Accredited/Cognia
Charleston County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Cherokee County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Chester County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Chesterfield County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Clarendon County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Colleton County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Darlington County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Dillon School District Four	Accredited/Cognia
Dorchester School District Two	Accredited/Cognia
Dorchester School District Four	Accredited/Cognia
Edgefield County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Fairfield County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Florence Public School District One	Accredited/Cognia
Florence County School District 2	Accredited/Cognia
Florence County School District 3	Accredited/Cognia
Florence County School District Five	Accredited/Cognia
Georgetown County School District	Accredited/Cognia
The School District of Greenville County	Accredited/Cognia
Greenwood School District 50	Accredited/Cognia
Ware Shoals School District 51 (Greenwood 51)	Accredited/Cognia

Greenwood County School District 52	Accredited/Cognia
Horry County Schools	Accredited/Cognia
Jasper County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Kershaw County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Lancaster County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Laurens County School District 55	Accredited/Cognia
Laurens County School District 56	Accredited/Cognia
Lee County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Lexington County School District One	Accredited/Cognia
Lexington County School District Two	Accredited/Cognia
Lexington County School District Three	Accredited/Cognia
Lexington School District Four	Accredited/Cognia
School District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties	Accredited/Cognia
McCormick County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Marion County School District	Accredited/Cognia
Marlboro County School District	Accredited/Cognia
School District of Newberry County	Accredited/Cognia
School District of Oconee County	Accredited/Cognia
Orangeburg County School District	Accredited/Cognia
School District of Pickens County	Accredited/Cognia
Richland County School District One	Accredited/Cognia
Richland School District Two	Accredited/Cognia
Saluda County Schools	Accredited/Cognia
Spartanburg School District One	Accredited/Cognia
Spartanburg School District 2	Accredited/Cognia
Spartanburg School District Three	Accredited/Cognia
Spartanburg School District Four	Accredited/Cognia
Spartanburg School District Five	Accredited/Cognia
Spartanburg School District Six	Accredited/Cognia
Spartanburg School District 7	Accredited/Cognia
Sumter School District	Accredited/Cognia
Union County Schools	Accredited/Cognia
Williamsburg County School District	Accredited/Cognia
York School District 1	Accredited/Cognia
Clover School District (York 2)	Accredited/Cognia
Rock Hill School District Three (York 3)	Accredited/Cognia
Fort Mill School District (York 4)	Accredited/Cognia
SC School for the Deaf and the Blind	Accredited/Cognia

Districts Monitored for Compliance

To ensure compliance with State laws, regulations, and policies, the SCDE monitors each public school district and the schools within its jurisdiction on a schedule developed and publicly posted by the SCDE. Each public school district and school shall comply with State laws, regulations, and policies, including, but not limited to, the qualifications, duties, and workloads of administrative and professional personnel, the defined program for each grade span, the Uniform Grading Policy, and the requirements for earning a South Carolina High School Diploma. See R.43-300(V).

If the SCDE finds noncompliance in a public school district or school, the SCDE will notify the district or school in writing of the noncompliance and the district must submit a corrective action plan to the SCDE within 30 days of receipt of the notification. In defining the steps that the district or school must take to correct the noncompliance and to document such correction, the SCDE may consider a variety of factors and may determine the specific nature of the required corrective action.

Noncompliance must be corrected as soon as possible, but in no case more than one year from identification (the date on which the SCDE provided written notification to the district or school of the noncompliance).

In order to demonstrate that previously identified noncompliance has been corrected, the public school district or school must:

- Account for all instances of noncompliance;
- Identify where noncompliance occurred and the root cause(s) of the noncompliance;
- If needed, change policies, procedures, and/or practices that contributed to or resulted in noncompliance; and
- Correctly implement the specific regulatory or statutory requirement(s). This must be based on the SCDE's review of updated data, such as data from subsequent onsite monitoring or data collected through a State data system.

If a public school district or school does not correct identified noncompliance in a timely manner, the SCDE may take action, including imposing initial or additional special requirements or specific conditions, seeking remedies, or pursuing legal action, as appropriate. Continued lack of compliance may also negatively impact the district's annual SCDE risk rating, as required by 2 CFR Part 200.331.

More information can be found on the [SCDE State Accountability](#) website.

District	Final Status
Charleston County School District	Monitored/All Clear
Chester County School District	Monitored/All Clear
Clarendon County School District	Monitored/All Clear
Florence County School District 2	Monitored/All Clear
Florence County School District 3	Monitored/All Clear
Florence County School District Five	Monitored/All Clear
Georgetown Country School District	Monitored/All Clear
Hampton County School District	Monitored/All Clear
Kershaw County School District	Monitored/All Clear
Lancaster County School District	Monitored/All Clear
Lee County School District	Monitored/All Clear
McCormick Country School District	Monitored/All Clear
Richland School District Two	Monitored/All Clear
Spartanburg School District Three	Monitored/All Clear
Spartanburg School District Four	Monitored/All Clear
Spartanburg County School District 6	Monitored/All Clear
Spartanburg School District 7	Monitored/All Clear
Sumter School District	Monitored/All Clear