



SC Annual School Report Card Summary

East Cooper Montessori Charter
Charleston

Grades: 1-8

Enrollment: 160

Principal: Jody Swanigan

Superintendent: Dr. Nancy J. McGinley

Board Chair: Mr. Hillery Douglas

PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on www.ed.sc.gov and 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/SILVER AWARD	AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
2008	Good	At-Risk	TBD	Met	N/A
2007	Good	Average	Gold	Met	N/A
2006	Excellent	Average	N/A	Met	N/A

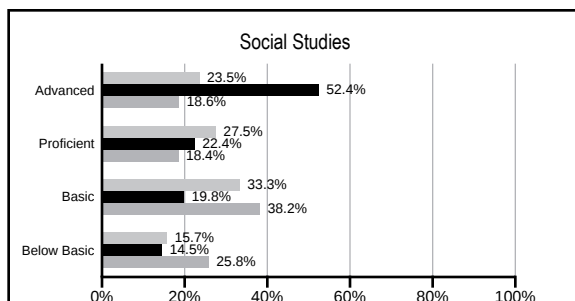
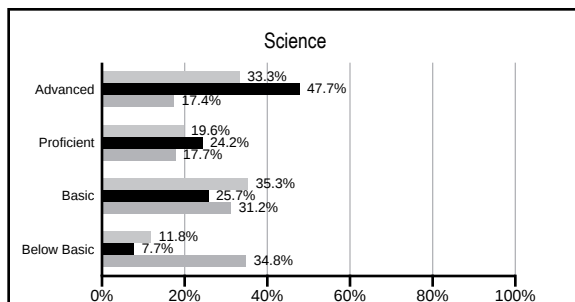
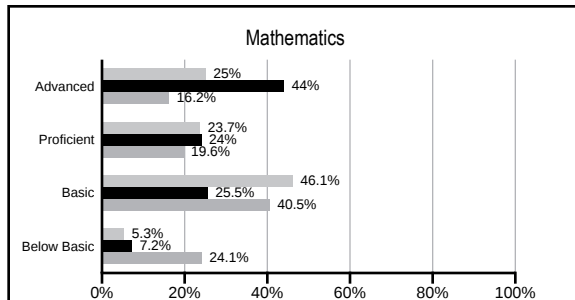
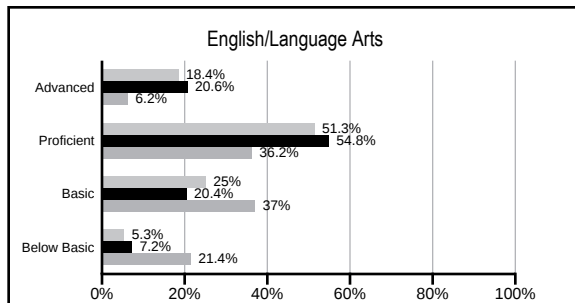
ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
9	2	0	1	0

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 02/17/2009. Schools with Students like Ours are Elementary Schools with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

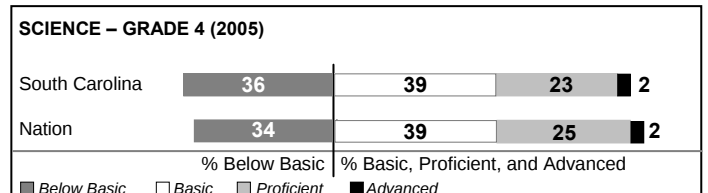
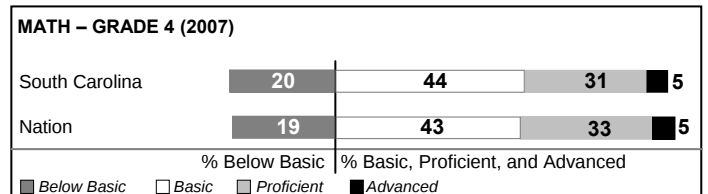
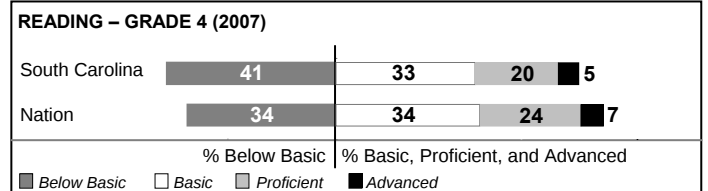
PACT PERFORMANCE

Our School Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours Elementary schools statewide



NAEP PERFORMANCE*

* Performance reported for SC and nation, data not available at school level. Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels.



SC PERFORMANCE GOAL

2010 Goal:

By 2010, SC's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

2020 Goal: TBD

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
NI Newly Identified CSI Continuing School Improvement CA Corrective Action RP Plan to Restructure R Restructure DELAY School Improvement Status HOLD School Improvement Status

East Cooper Montessori Charter [Charleston]

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary School
Students (n=160)				
Retention rate	1.9%	Down from 2.8%	0.4%	2.3%
Attendance rate	97.1%	Up from 96.1%	97.1%	96.3%
Eligible for gifted and talented	42.9%	Up from 40.7%	33.4%	10.4%
With disabilities other than speech	3.8%	Up from 2.8%	4.3%	7.5%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=9)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	33.3%	No Change	59.4%	56.7%
Continuing contract teachers	22.2%	Up from 16.7%	84.8%	77.3%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	N/A	N/A	88.1%	86.4%
Teacher attendance rate	98.9%	Down from 100.0%	94.6%	94.9%
Average teacher salary	\$38,413	Up 19.3%	\$48,085	\$45,345
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	31.5%	Up from 28.6%	0.4%	0.0%
School				
Principal's years at school	4.0	Up from 3.0	6.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	20.0 to 1	Up from 17.8 to 1	19.8 to 1	18.5 to 1
Prime instructional time	96.0%	Down from 96.1%	90.9%	89.8%
Opportunities in the arts	Poor	Down from Fair	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	No	No Change	Yes	Yes
Character development program	Excellent	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$7,159	Down 24.9%	\$7,039	\$7,052
Percent of expenditures for instruction*	59.0%	Up from 53.0%	65.4%	69.1%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	45.5%	Up from 35.8%	63.0%	64.2%
% of AYP objectives met	100.0%		100.0%	85.7%

* Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	13	10	9
Percent satisfied with learning environment	100.0%	I/S	I/S
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	100.0%	100.0%	I/S
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	100.0%	I/S	I/S

*Only students at the highest elementary school grade level at this school and their parents were included.

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Guided by the principles of Dr. Maria Montessori, East Cooper Montessori Charter School (ECMCS) offers an authentic Montessori education to elementary and middle school students in the Charleston County public school system. Located in the beautiful walking community of I'On, the school and surrounding green spaces offer unique academic opportunities and cultural diversity in the arts. Every year since its inception in 2003, ECMCS has grown to meet the increasing demand for public Montessori education. During the 2007-08 school year, ECMCS expanded its population by 56% percent to serve approximately 160 students from first through eighth grades. At the commencement of the 2007-08 school year, ECMCS moved out of mobile classrooms and into a brand new 12,000 square-foot facility.

Part of the mission of ECMCS is to provide a rigorous, Montessori education that guides children toward academic excellence and a lifelong love of learning. The school fulfills this aspect of its mission by offering a diverse curriculum that incorporates and extends district, state, and national standards and includes scientific and mathematical aptitudes, appreciation of history and timelines, literacy across disciplines, and the development of a student's humanity toward the local and global community. Montessori education is rooted in the natural curiosity of children about life and the world around them. Students develop their abilities by posing questions, designing investigations, and gaining skills necessary to express and pursue their own research interests.

The second part of the school's mission is to encourage stewardship of the greater community—not only from the students, but also from the parents, the faculty, and other community members involved with the school. This is achieved in many ways. Starting in the first grade, students devote at least 20 hours to an individual community service project called the Yearlong Peace Project. Crisis Ministries, My Sister's House, Habitat for Humanity, and the SPCA are just a few of the many organizations to which ECMCS students volunteer their time. Some students also serve the community by creating awareness of environmental concerns through activities such as recycling, beach and neighborhood clean-ups, and planting trees. Parents also generously donate their time and efforts to the school by serving on the school board and committees, helping out in the classrooms, researching community resources to support the school, and speaking at public events about the school's mission.

Some of the school's recent achievements include (1) winning a Palmetto Silver Award; (2) attaining an absolute rating of Good on the 2007 State of South Carolina report card; (3) being the beneficiary of a highly successful capital campaign that constructed the new building specifically for ECMCS; (4) securing a \$100,000 science and technology grant to improve student achievement in science; and (6) recruiting and training highly-qualified, state-certified Montessori professionals. But the school's greatest success is the breadth and depth of student achievement that has fueled the school's continued growth.

Jody Swanigan, Principal
Nancy Cagan, ECMCS Board Chair

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