



SC Annual School Report Card Summary

Great Falls High

Chester

Grades: 9-12

Enrollment: 321

Principal: Corey J. Murphy

Superintendent: Mr. Larry Heath

Board Chair: Denise Lawson

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	Average	Good	TBD	Met	N/A
2007	Average	Below Average	N/A	Met	N/A
2006	Below Average	At-Risk	N/A	Not Met	N/A

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF HIGH SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
4	10	15	4	0

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

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM(HSAP) EXAM PASSAGE RATE(%): SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

	Our High School		High Schools with Students Like Ours	
	2007	2008	2007	2008
Passed 2 subtests (%)	67.7%	79.2%	75.6%	77.6%
Passed 1 subtest (%)	20.2%	15.6%	14.1%	11.9%
Passed no subtests (%)	12.1%	5.2%	10.6%	10.5%

HSAP PASSAGE RATE (%) BY SPRING 2008

	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
	93.4%	93.2%

ON-TIME GRADUATION RATE

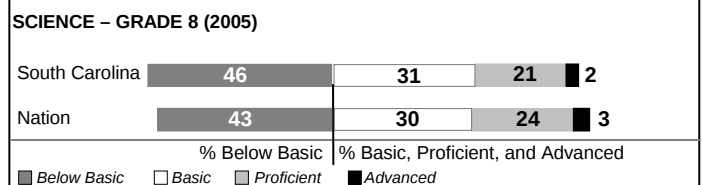
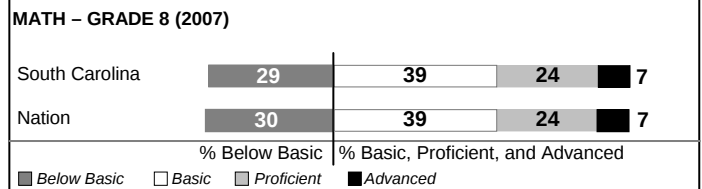
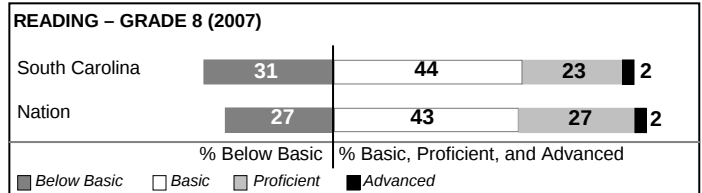
	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Number of students	72	187
Number of Diplomas	55	141
Rate (%)	76.4%	76.5%

END OF COURSE TESTS - 2008

% of students scoring 70 or above on:	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	73.5%	68.2%
English 1	52.5%	57.5%
Physical Science	57.1%	44.3%
All Tests	60.0%	55.9%

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

Great Falls High [Chester]

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	High Schools with Students Like Ours	Median High School
Students (n=321)				
Retention rate	8.7%	Up from 7.5%	6.6%	6.1%
Attendance rate	95.0%	Down from 95.3%	94.9%	95.0%
Eligible for gifted and talented	7.7%	Up from 6.4%	10.2%	8.3%
With disabilities other than speech	14.3%	Down from 15.0%	14.4%	13.0%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	13.1%	Up from 0.3%	1.2%	1.5%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	5.7%	Down from 7.5%	9.3%	11.4%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	39.3%	54.3%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	27.1%	Down from 30.3%	29.8%	30.5%
Annual dropout rate	5.1%	Down from 8.4%	3.7%	3.5%
Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations	0.0%	No Change	4.1%	3.1%
Enrollment in career/technology courses	224	Up from 203	455	559
Career/technology students attaining technical skills	83.8%	Up from 82.7%	82.2%	79.6%
Teachers (n=24)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	62.5%	Down from 64.0%	53.3%	57.4%
Continuing contract teachers	75.0%	Up from 72.0%	69.2%	69.6%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	8.7%	Up from 4.8%	9.9%	8.7%
Teachers returning from previous year	83.9%	Up from 81.7%	85.1%	85.0%
Teacher attendance rate	95.0%	Up from 94.3%	95.0%	95.4%
Average teacher salary	\$50,688	Up 3.9%	\$46,149	\$46,061
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	Down from 1.7%	5.0%	4.3%
School				
Principal's years at school	1.0	Down from 8.0	4.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	22.5 to 1	Up from 20.8 to 1	26.1 to 1	25.4 to 1
Prime instructional time	87.9%	No Change	88.2%	89.1%
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$9,682	Up 10.7%	\$7,554	\$7,279
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	54.0%	Up from 53.8%	56.5%	55.3%
Percent of expenditures for instruction*	56.2%	No Change	59.7%	60.8%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Character development program	Below Average	No Change	Good	Good
Modern Language Program Assessment	N/A	N/A	Good	Good
Classical Language Program Assessment	N/A	N/A	Good	Average
% of AYP objectives met	100.0%		89.5%	90.5%

* Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	27	75	40
Percent satisfied with learning environment	77.8%	64.0%	77.5%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	81.5%	72.0%	66.7%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	40.7%	89.3%	66.7%

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

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Great Falls High School serves Chester County School District students in the extreme southeast corner of the county. It is a 9-12 high school of approximately 330 students. The student body is diverse with 48% African-American, 50% white, 1% Hispanic Heritage, and 1% Native American. The Absolute Rating of the school in 2007 was Average and the school met AYP. This year, however, our resources and efforts have been focused on raising the Improvement Rating, which was Below Average.

Great Falls High School was granted over \$200,000 in funding over the next three years from the Chester County Health Care Foundation. The money is used to fund an after school academic assistance lab that includes a healthy snack and transportation home, after school classes for initial credit, and a summer academic recovery program called Fifth Quarter.

Our emphasis is on continuous improvement. We are pleased that Great Falls High School is now a High Schools That Work site. The school implemented a literacy initiative that funded a literacy coach and lab to train the faculty. An academic coach was employed for increased achievement on standardized tests. Twenty-nine of our sixty seniors attained the GPA needed to be considered an Honor Graduate. Sixteen of our seniors are eligible to receive the Life Scholarship at four-year institutions. Great Falls High School also offers college level courses in our distance learning lab taught by professors from the University of South Carolina at Lancaster and York Technical College.

Great Falls High School has a rich tradition of athletic participation and achievement. Over 40% of our students are involved in the athletic program. This year the football team won the Upper State Championship and the basketball team made it to the upper state play-offs.

Forty-three students attended the Chester County Career Center this year to take a variety of career focused courses. This year we were able to have an agricultural science class taught on school grounds in our newly constructed green house.

It is the steadfast intent of the administration, faculty, and staff of Great Falls High School to continuously focus on teaching and learning in order to increase student achievement.

Corey J. Murphy, Principal
Abby Brunson, School Improvement Council Chair

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