



SC Annual School Report Card Summary

The Academy for Teaching and Learning Charter Chester

Grades: K-8

Enrollment: 287

Principal: Robyn Welborn and Mary Ann McKeown

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

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT

0

GOOD

4

AVERAGE

36

BELOW AVERAGE

6

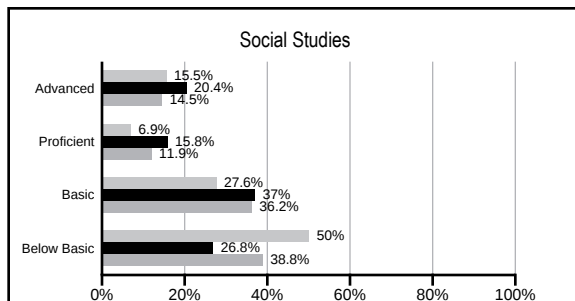
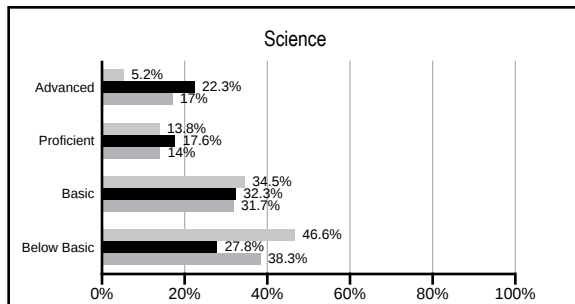
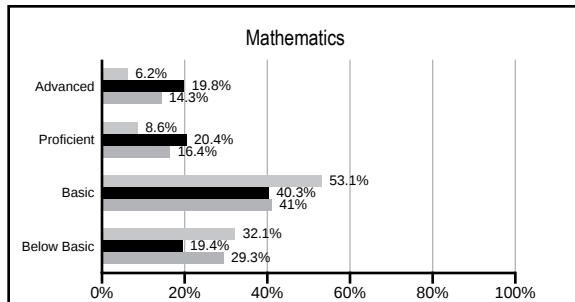
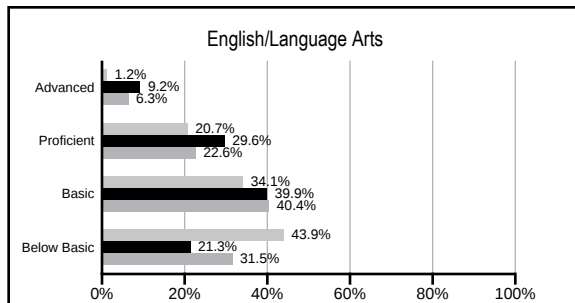
AT-RISK

1

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 03/02/2009. Schools with Students like Ours are Middle Schools with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

PACT PERFORMANCE

Our School Middle Schools with Students Like Ours Middle schools statewide



NAEP PERFORMANCE*

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

READING - GRADE 8 (2007)

South Carolina	31	44	23	2
Nation	27	43	27	2
% Below Basic % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced Below Basic Basic Proficient Advanced				

MATH - GRADE 8 (2007)

South Carolina	29	39	24	7
Nation	30	39	24	7
% Below Basic % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced Below Basic Basic Proficient Advanced				

SCIENCE - GRADE 8 (2005)

South Carolina	46	31	21	2
Nation	43	30	24	3
% Below Basic % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced Below Basic Basic Proficient Advanced				

END OF COURSE TESTS - 2008

% of students scoring 70 or above on:	Our Middle School	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	66.7%	98.4%
English 1	75.0%	94.8%
Physical Science	0%	28.0%
All Subjects	71.4%	97.9%

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

The Academy for Teaching and Learning Charter [Chester]

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
Students (n=287)				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	7.5%	Down from 12.9%	27.7%	19.4%
Retention rate	1.8%	Up from 1.2%	1.6%	1.8%
Attendance rate	95.0%	Down from 99.0%	95.8%	95.8%
Eligible for gifted and talented	10.6%	Down from 13.2%	19.3%	15.3%
With disabilities other than speech	11.6%	Up from 11.5%	13.1%	12.9%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No Change	0.8%	0.7%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	N/A	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=22)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	63.6%	Up from 55.0%	57.6%	55.0%
Continuing contract teachers	77.3%	Up from 70.0%	75.0%	70.6%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0.0%	No Change	5.0%	5.4%
Teachers returning from previous year	N/A	N/A	86.8%	83.4%
Teacher attendance rate	93.1%	Down from 95.0%	95.1%	94.9%
Average teacher salary	\$46,861	Up 9.2%	\$45,357	\$44,706
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.8%	Up from 0.0%	0.5%	2.9%
School				
Principal's years at school	2.0	Up from 1.0	3.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	20.0 to 1	Up from 19.4 to 1	22.5 to 1	20.1 to 1
Prime instructional time	85.9%	Down from 92.5%	89.2%	89.3%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	No	No Change	Yes	Yes
Character development program	Excellent	No Change	Good	Good
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$7,922	N/A	\$6,576	\$7,097
Percent of expenditures for instruction*	59.4%	N/A	64.3%	64.4%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	52.7%	N/A	60.1%	59.4%
% of AYP objectives met	76.5%		71.4%	69.0%

* Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	18	12	41
Percent satisfied with learning environment	100.0%	100.0%	97.6%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	100.0%	100.0%	97.6%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	100.0%	100.0%	95.1%

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

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

The faculty, parents, students, and community members have worked diligently to establish a learning environment that promotes optimal learning. The Academy for Teaching and Learning (ATL) has developed a school mission that values each child and faculty member as an individual and strives to provide support and encouragement that ensures that all members of the school family reach academic and social success. ATL's goals to focus heavily on professional development and reflection on student progress will ensure that all students reach academic and social excellence.

The Academy implemented a systematic approach in gathering student data from various sources (PACT, MAP, formal and informal classroom assessments, and interest inventories) to determine academic remediation and acceleration opportunities. Staff members used the results from the data to reflect on their teaching practices and search for various strategies to reach all learners. Students were provided an additional hour of instruction each day during the Academy's extended day program. MAP scores in the winter and spring showed a positive impact on student achievement.

The Academy has established a strong sense of community for all students who attend the school. Middle school students are given opportunities to work with younger students through the mentoring program implemented by the school. Weekly gatherings are held on Fridays that showcase students' learning and recognize Students of the Week, Perfect Attendance, Honor Roll, and Good Citizen Awards. The school continued to involve every student in service learning projects that help the community. ATL focused on community hunger with several food drives to stock the local food pantry and also participated with the 4-H program to create and deliver a care bag for the elderly. The Academy participated in Relay for Life and raised funds to fight cancer. The school continues to implement the components of the Heartwood Character Education curriculum with students.

Students are given a variety of extra-curricular activities during the extended day program and after-school. Students have the opportunity to participate in 4-H activities, Junior Achievement, Student Council, Chester's Joyful Quilters, YMCA Swimming Lessons, Band, Chorus, and cheerleading. Each nine weeks students are provided an interest inventory to determine opportunities for enrichment.

Parent involvement continues to drive the school's mission and support faculty and students. Parents are an active component of the success of the school. Parents serve as board members to govern the school and participate on committees that promote student success. In the future, ATL will continue to make data driven decisions that identify areas of weakness and professional development to establish "best practices" in teaching. This will give every student at the Academy for Teaching and Learning an opportunity to reach their full potential.

Robyn B. Welborn, Director
Mary A. McKeown, Director

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