



Gilbert Primary

520 Main Street
Gilbert, SC 29054

Grades	PK-2 Primary School	
Enrollment	756 Students	
Principal	Loretta G. Arnette	803-892-1200
Superintendent	Dr. Karen C. Woodward	803-951-8363
Board Chair	G. Edwin Harmon, Ph.D.	803-359-0844



THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2008 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

Year	Absolute Rating	Growth Rating
2008	Excellent	Good
2007	Excellent	Good
2006	Excellent	Good
2005	Excellent	Good
2004	Excellent	Good

DEFINITIONS OF DISTRICT RATING TERMS

- Excellent – District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Good – District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Average – District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- Below Average – District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal
- At-Risk – District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE GOAL

By 2010, South Carolina'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.

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
0	0	0	0	0

* Ratings are calculated with data available by September 30. Primary Schools with Students like Ours are primary schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

Performance Rating Criteria

Prime instructional time	89.3%
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	22.9 to 1
Teachers with advanced degrees	47.1%
Teachers returning from previous year	83.9%
Percent of parents attending conferences	100.0%
Days of professional development devoted exclusively to knowledge and skills working with children less than eight years old	11.9 days

Types Of Accreditation (More Than One May Apply)

	Not pursuing accreditation
X	Conducting a self-study
X	South Carolina Department of Education
X	Southern Association of Colleges and School
	American Montessori Society
	National Association for the Education of Young Children

School Profile

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Primary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Primary School
Students (n=756)				
First graders who attended full-day kindergarten	100.0%	No Change	100.0%	100.0%
Retention rate	1.6%	Down from 3.4%	1.6%	4.0%
Attendance rate	95.5%	Up from 95.3%	95.5%	95.6%
With disabilities other than speech	2.8%	Up from 2.3%	2.8%	4.0%
Older than usual for grade	0.2%	Down from 0.9%	0.2%	0.0%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=51)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	47.1%	Down from 51.0%	47.1%	56.8%
Continuing contract teachers	60.8%	Down from 65.3%	60.8%	81.3%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	83.9%	Up from 83.2%	83.9%	88.6%
Teacher attendance rate	94.8%	Up from 94.7%	94.8%	94.9%
Average teacher salary	\$41,542	Up 5.9%	\$41,542	\$45,806
Professional development days/teacher	13.5 days	No Change	13.5 days	18.1 days
School				
Principal's years at school	7.0	Up from 6.0	7.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	22.9 to 1	Down from 24.0 to 1	22.9 to 1	18.7 to 1
Prime instructional time	89.3%	Up from 88.8%	89.3%	88.6%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	No Change	100.0%	100.0%
Character development program	Excellent	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$6,335	Down 2.4%	\$6,335	\$6,510
Percent of expenditures for instruction*	66.2%	Up from 65.9%	66.2%	71.0%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	64.1%	Down from 64.2%	64.1%	64.2%

* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A–Not Applicable N/AV–Not Available N/C–Not Collected N/R–Not Reported I/S–Insufficient Sample

Report of Principal and School Improvement Council

Gilbert Primary students continue to develop academically, socially, emotionally, and artistically. Our staff takes special care to nurture our young students in a warm, loving, and stimulating environment that models and encourages positive character development and builds positive relationships with students.

GPS is a Title I School and a recipient of a South Carolina School Improvement Grant. We were recognized as a Red Carpet School by the South Carolina Department of Education for our family-friendly environment.

Our highly-qualified staff participated in professional development called the "Love and Logic" program. We created and implemented a school-wide discipline plan and lesson plans. We worked to increase our

professional knowledge in the areas of balanced literacy, integrated curriculum, differentiated instruction, response to intervention, positive behavior support, and character education. We continue to provide our staff with training and staff development in balanced literacy, core curriculum, and study group offerings.

Students improved in letter naming fluency, phoneme segmentation fluency, and nonsense word fluency. More than 50 percent of our students met benchmark expectations. On phoneme segmentation fluency, more than 75 percent of our students met benchmark goals in both kindergarten and first grade. As our most "at-risk" learners were identified, we provided them with extra assistance through Response to Intervention, and they were monitored weekly to determine progress. All of our "at-risk" students showed improvement after explicit interventions targeted for each student's specific needs.

Our second-grade students also showed improvements on Measures of Academic Progress. In mathematics, the percentage of students meeting the growth target improved from 35.1 to 47.3, and in reading, the percentage of students meeting the growth target improved from 53.5 to 68.8.

Parent education and family involvement opportunities continue to be a priority at GPS. Parenting center educators provided home visits, Parent and Child Together weekly sessions, monthly special events, weekly media center visits, weekly volunteer opportunities for parents, translators for ESOL families, parent education for families, literature for participants in the parenting center, English classes, and GED courses for parents. In conjunction with the SIC and PTA, GPS offered monthly family involvement activities such as Fall Fair, Movie Night, Arts Alive, IGA Math and Family Night, Family Reading Night, Read Across America Day, Back-to-School Dance, and School-wide Skate Night.

This year, GPS began construction of a new wing with 14 kindergarten classes and a multi-purpose room, as well as other renovations. Portables were relocated so that we could begin construction on the new wing and add new heating and air, paint, carpet, and tile. Construction will finish in time for the 2008–2009 school year. GPS continues to have significant community and parent support. We are proud of our progress and are eager to embark upon another year of learning.

Loretta Arnette, Principal
Tammy Reynolds, SIC Chair

Evaluations by Teachers

	Teachers
Number of surveys returned	45
Percent satisfied with learning environment	88.9%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	95.6%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	100.0%

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School Adequate Yearly Progress

NO

* 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.

Teacher Quality and Student Attendance

	Our District	State
Classes in low poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	1.7%	1.8%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	N/A	6.8%

	Our School	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	0.0%	Yes
Student attendance rate	95.5%	94.0%	Yes

* Or greater than last year