



Batesburg-Leesville Primary

800 Summerland Avenue
Batesburg-Leesville, South

Grades	PK-2 Primary School	
Enrollment	553 Students	
Principal	Tonya K. Watson	803-532-4452
Superintendent	Dr. William M. Gummerson	803-532-4423
Board Chair	Billy Berry	803-532-3551

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2008 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

Year	Absolute Rating	Growth Rating
2008	Excellent	Excellent
2007	Good	Below Average
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
8	1	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	88.2%
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	19.0 to 1
Teachers with advanced degrees	59.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	96.3%
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	7.2 days

Types Of Accreditation (More Than One May Apply)

	Not pursuing accreditation
	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=553)				
First graders who attended full-day kindergarten	100.0%	No Change	99.6%	100.0%
Retention rate	3.6%	Down from 5.1%	3.1%	4.0%
Attendance rate	95.8%	No Change	95.5%	95.6%
With disabilities other than speech	6.2%	Up from 6.0%	4.7%	4.0%
Older than usual for grade	0.3%	Down from 0.6%	0.0%	0.0%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=39)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	59.0%	Up from 50.0%	60.2%	56.8%
Continuing contract teachers	92.3%	Down from 92.9%	81.1%	81.3%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	96.3%	Up from 96.0%	89.3%	88.6%
Teacher attendance rate	94.1%	Down from 95.4%	95.2%	94.9%
Average teacher salary	\$46,469	Up 4.8%	\$45,767	\$45,806
Professional development days/teacher	26.0 days	Up from 25.5 days	23.6 days	18.1 days
School				
Principal's years at school	4.0	Up from 3.0	3.5	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	19.0 to 1	Up from 16.2 to 1	18.6 to 1	18.7 to 1
Prime instructional time	88.2%	Down from 89.8%	89.0%	88.6%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	Up from 99.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Character development program	Good	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil*	\$7,589	Up 9.6%	\$6,570	\$6,510
Percent of expenditures for instruction*	71.0%	Down from 71.7%	70.4%	71.0%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	57.5%	Down from 67.3%	63.8%	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

Dear Parents and Supporters of Batesburg-Leesville Primary,

Batesburg-Leesville Primary School is very proud of its mission to meet the needs of all students and to prepare them for the future. We believe the goals and objectives established by the School Improvement Council and the faculty and staff were met for the school year 2007-2008. The most exciting goal that was achieved was meeting the No Child Left Behind's Adequately Yearly Progress! Focusing on our school's motto this year, "Work Hard, Work Smart, Work Together," our faculty, students, and parents have followed the school's School Renewal Plan to move our school forward and maintain an excellence in which we can be proud.

BLPS has continued to implement the State Improvement Grant which was awarded to us last year. As part of the objectives of the grant, our school discipline policy has been revamped and we are very proud to report that discipline referrals have reduced from 923 in 2005-2006 to 551 this year. Our school was also named as one of the first schools in the state to be a HealthierUS School Challenge Silver Team Nutrition School by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. BLPS met the challenge to make changes to our school's nutrition environment, improve the quality of the foods served, and provide students with more nutritious, healthy choices. The Silver Award has been received by only 32 schools in the nation!

A 2-hour, uninterrupted reading block was scheduled for 1st and 2nd graders this year to ensure that students receive reading and writing instruction without being pulled out for other services. Also, the master schedule was designed such that additional faculty members were able to assist in providing small group instruction to more effectively differentiate reading instruction. This has proven to be very successful in helping students reach their individual potentials.

We are also very excited about the implementation of two excellent programs, Thinking Maps and Write From the Beginning, which help students brainstorm about subjects and then write stories or factual information using a writing formula. The faculty and staff have all received training about these two programs and students have improved their writing skills already!

As we look ahead, we cannot be complacent and become satisfied with mediocrity. We want our students to be able to compete with any other student across the country. A good work ethic, a strong academic base, and support from parents/guardians will certainly help in achieving our goals for the future.

Tonya K. Watson, Principal
Jennifer McInnis, SIC Chairperson

Evaluations by Teachers

	Teachers
Number of surveys returned	43
Percent satisfied with learning environment	90.7%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	97.7%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	90.7%

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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	N/A	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	95.8%	94.0%	Yes

* Or greater than last year