

SC Annual School District Report Card Summary

Chester School District

Grades: PK-12

Enrollment: 5,746

Superintendent: Mr. Larry B. Heath

Board Chair: Dr. Richard Hughes

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 General Performance	AND SILVER AWARD Closing the Gap	AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
2009	Below Average	At-Risk	N/A	N/A	Not Met	N/A
2008	Below Average	Average	N/A	N/A	Not Met	N/A
2007	Below Average	Below Average	N/A	N/A	Not Met	N/A

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF DISTRICTS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
0	0	2	19	0

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 06/01/2010. Districts with Students Like Ours are Districts with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this district.

PASS

PASS	2009 Reading % Met or above	2009 Math % Met or above	2009 Science % Met or above	2009 Social Studies % Met or above	2009 Writing % Met or above
District	60.8%	59.4%	54.0%	61.4%	57.7%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	68.8%	65.7%	61.1%	66.5%	64.5%
Average District	73.6%	70.5%	67.4%	72.2%	70.2%

PASS	2009 Reading % Exemplary	2009 Math % Exemplary	2009 Science % Exemplary	2009 Social Studies % Exemplary	2009 Writing % Exemplary
District	22.5%	16.8%	10.5%	20.8%	16.7%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	29.5%	23.7%	14.4%	22.3%	23.8%
Average District	35.2%	28.8%	18.8%	28.5%	29.8%

HSAP

HSAP: 2nd Year Students	Passed 2 Subtests (%)	Passed 1 Subtest (%)	Passed No Subtests (%)
District	73.2%	15.6%	11.2%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	72.9%	14.3%	12.9%

HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2009 (%)

District	96.5%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	93.1%

End of Course Test Passage Rate (%)

District	55.4
Districts with Students Like Ours**	55.8

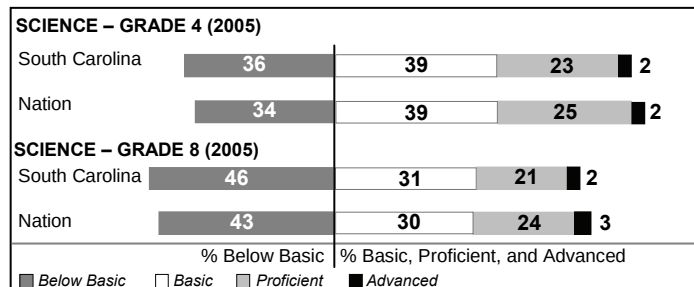
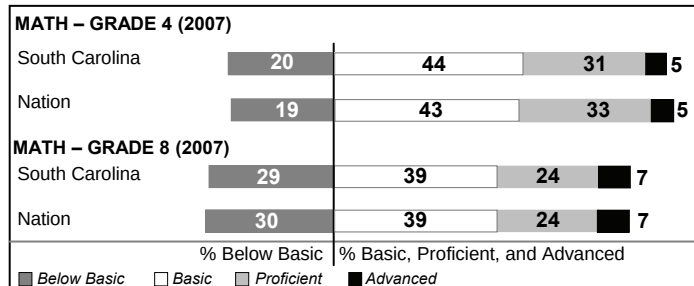
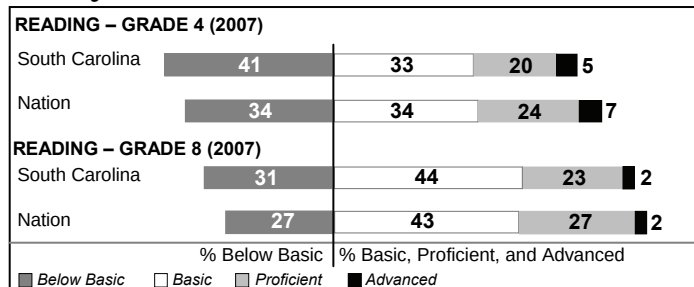
On-Time Graduation Rate (%)

District	76.9%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	75.1%

** Districts with Students Like Ours are districts with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this district.

NAEP*

* 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 Vision:

By 2020 all students will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete successfully in the global economy, participate in a democratic society and contribute positively as members of families and communities.

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 CDI Continuing District Improvement CA Corrective Action RP Plan to Restructure R Restructure DELAY District Improvement Status HOLD District Improvement Status

Chester School District

DISTRICT PROFILE

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with Students Like Ours	Median District
Students (n=5,746)				
Retention rate	3.8%	Down from 5.6%	3.5%	3.1%
Attendance rate	95.1%	Down from 95.2%	95.7%	95.7%
Eligible for gifted and talented	8.8%	Down from 11.7%	12.1%	11.2%
With disabilities other than speech	8.8%	Down from 9.9%	10.8%	10.6%
Older than usual for grade	6.5%	Down from 6.9%	4.9%	4.3%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	4.3%	Up from 2.7%	0.6%	0.5%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	10.2%	Up from 6.5%	8.1%	10.5%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	50.2%	51.2%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	29.8%	Down from 34.3%	29.4%	30.8%
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	40	Up from 23	40	40
Completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	36	Up from 16	23	30
Annual dropout rate	5.1%	Down from 5.7%	4.0%	3.4%
Teachers (n=436)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	56.2%	Down from 58.0%	56.5%	56.8%
Continuing contract teachers	73.9%	Up from 73.2%	79.9%	76.7%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	6.0%	Up from 5.8%	4.3%	4.6%
Teachers returning from previous year	85.0%	Down from 85.5%	88.4%	88.4%
Teacher attendance rate	95.5%	Up from 94.5%	95.0%	95.0%
Average teacher salary*	\$46,948	Up 1.8%	\$46,226	\$46,992
Vacancies for more than nine weeks	0.5%	Down from 1.4%	0.3%	0.4%
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	2.6%	Up from 0.6%	1.6%	2.3%
Professional development days/teacher	10.1 days	Down from 13.3 days	13.4 days	13.1 days
District				
Superintendent's years at district	3.0	Up from 2.0	3.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	20.6 to 1	Up from 19.4 to 1	20.0 to 1	20.5 to 1
Prime instructional time	89.6%	Up from 87.5%	89.8%	89.8%
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$9,535	Up 5.5%	\$9,378	\$9,279
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	52.7%	Up from 52.2%	52.7%	52.7%
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	55.4%	Up from 55.3%	56.4%	56.7%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Number of schools	13	No Change	9	9
Portable classrooms	4.0%	Up from 3.3%	2.3%	3.5%
Average age in years of school facilities	26 Years	Up from 25 Years	29 Years	28 Years
Number of schools with SACS accreditation	12.0	No Change	9.0	8.0
Parents attending conferences	95.8%	N/A	95.2%	93.9%
Average administrator salary	\$70,324	Up 2.8%	\$78,468	\$79,261
Number of charter schools	1	No Change	0	0
% of AYP objectives met	73.9%	Up from 61.9%	85.2%	85.7%

* Length of contract = 185+ days.

** Prior year audited financial data available.

CHARTER SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT

School Name	Absolute Rating	Growth Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
The Academy for Teaching and Learning (ELEM.)	Average	Good	Met
The Academy for Teaching and Learning (MIDDLE)	Average	Below Average	Met

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REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

With the 2008-2009 school year came the arduous task of leading a school district during the worst economic crisis ever experienced in my 37 year tenure as an educator. The downturn in the economy has had a devastating impact on Chester County, where the unemployment rate has exceeded 20%. Early and mid-year budget cuts in excess of \$2.5 million had the Chester County School District administration scrambling for ways to absorb costs and still provide an effective instructional program for our students. While we have been discouraged, we have certainly not been defeated. Although we have had to reduce personnel and services, the district continues to commit to the growth and development of our students and staff. The Chester County School District continues to design an effective instructional program that has a positive impact on student achievement. We have begun to implement strategies in all schools that will be the advent of closing the achievement gap between our minority and impoverished students when compared with other students. We continue to focus on academic achievement and have involved our teachers in the development of a standards-based curriculum during monthly meetings where every teacher is assigned to work on a committee. In addition to the curriculum, this work will also culminate in the completion of benchmark assessments in grades K-5. Our goal is to ensure that every student in Chester County receives an opportunity to be taught grade level standards. A standards-based curriculum and benchmark assessments have already been completed in grades 6-12, leading all three of our high school to be Palmetto Gold and/or Silver Award Winners for 2008-09.

Another important district focus is an emphasis on early learning. We plan to expand our child development program over a five-year period as measured by our Strategic Plan for Early Childhood Learning. The district has committed to forming local partnerships with businesses, local agencies, and other child care providers in an effort to have more children ready to be successful when they enter kindergarten.

According to Franklin D. Roosevelt, "Happiness lies in the joy of achievement and the thrill of creative effort." This certainly holds true for Chester County. Even amidst the adversities the county is currently experiencing (high unemployment rate, high teen pregnancy rate, increased gang memberships, low test scores), we maintain that Chester County will be a beacon as we work to rebuild, increase parental involvement, and unify our community. We fervently believe that Chester County is a great place to learn, work, and grow!

Larry B. Heath
Superintendent

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