



Great Falls High

411 Sunset Ave

Great Falls, South Carolina

Grades	9-12 High School	
Enrollment	315 Students	
Principal	Corey J. Murphy	803-482-2210
Superintendent	Mr. Larry B. Heath	803-385-6122
Board Chair	Dr. Richard Hughes	803-581-7522

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2009 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2009	Average	Below Average
2008	Average	Good
2007	Average	Below Average
2006	Below Average	At-Risk
2005	Average	Average

DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

- Excellent – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Good – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Average – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Below Average – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- At-Risk – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE 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.

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE 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.

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF HIGH SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
1	5	14	7	1

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 03/25/2010.

High School Assessment Program (HSAP) Exam Passage Rate: Second Year Students

	Our High School			High Schools with Students Like Ours		
Percent	2007	2008	2009	2007	2008	2009
Passed 2 subtests (%)	67.7	79.2	78.4	75.6	77.6	72.5
Passed 1 subtest (%)	20.2	15.6	10.8	14.1	11.9	14.7
Passed no subtests (%)	12.1	5.2	10.8	10.6	10.5	12.8

HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2009

	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Percent	96.4%	92.7%

On-Time Graduation Rate

	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Number of Students	107	224
Number of Diplomas	79	161
Rate	73.8%	74.0%

End of Course Tests

Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours*
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	64.0	64.3
English 1	47.9	52.8
Physical Science	54.9	42.0
US History and the Constitution	29.3	30.5
All Tests	48.9	46.9

* High Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

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

School Profile

	Our School	Change from Last Year	High Schools with Students Like Ours	Median High School
Students (n=315)				
Retention rate	7.6%	Down from 8.7%	5.0%	4.8%
Attendance rate	94.2%	Down from 95.0%	94.8%	95.5%
Eligible for gifted and talented	9.1%	Up from 7.7%	9.4%	9.2%
With disabilities other than speech	14.2%	Down from 14.3%	13.7%	12.6%
Older than usual for grade	12.7%	Up from 11.8%	10.5%	8.6%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	7.0%	Down from 13.1%	0.7%	1.2%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	17.6%	Up from 5.7%	8.6%	13.2%
Successful on AP/IB exams	N/A	N/A	48.8%	55.6%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	31.3%	Up from 27.1%	29.4%	29.8%
Annual dropout rate	5.0%	Down from 5.1%	3.6%	3.5%
Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations	0.0%	No Change	7.8%	3.0%
Enrollment in career/technology courses	195	Down from 224	556	523
Students participating in work-based experiences	14.2%	Up from 10.0%	12.0%	12.9%
Career/technology students attaining technical skills	91.5%	Up from 83.8%	80.5%	79.3%
Career/technology completers placed	90.9%	Up from 88.9%	94.9%	98.8%
Teachers (n=26)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	53.8%	Down from 62.5%	56.0%	58.6%
Continuing contract teachers	61.5%	Down from 75.0%	69.4%	71.6%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	18.2%	Up from 8.7%	10.3%	8.1%
Teachers returning from previous year	79.0%	Down from 83.9%	84.2%	85.0%
Teacher attendance rate	97.1%	Up from 95.0%	95.4%	95.5%
Average teacher salary*	\$49,511	Down 2.4%	\$47,377	\$47,761
Professional development days/teacher	13.6 days	Up from 11.4 days	9.7 days	10.8 days
School				
Principal's years at school	2.0	Up from 1.0	3.5	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	20.9 to 1	Down from 22.5 to 1	25.2 to 1	26.1 to 1
Prime instructional time	89.9%	Up from 87.9%	89.7%	89.8%
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$10,400	Up 7.4%	\$8,201	\$7,883
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	55.3%	Up from 54.0%	53.7%	54.1%
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	57.5%	Up from 56.2%	60.0%	60.2%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	88.7%	Up from 73.6%	94.9%	95.8%
Character development program	Below Average	No Change	Good	Good
Modern language program assessment	N/A	N/A	Average	Average
Classical language program assessment	N/A	N/A	N/A	Good

* Includes current year teachers contracted for 185 or more days.

** 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

Performance By Student Groups

	HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2009		End of Course Passage Rate		Graduation Rate		
	n	%	t	%	n	%	Met State Objective
All Students	83	96.4%	311	48.9%	107	73.8%	No
Gender							
Male	46	97.8%	182	50.5%	61	70.5%	N/A
Female	37	94.6%	129	46.5%	46	78.3%	N/A
Racial/Ethnic Group							
White	33	100.0%	171	56.7%	46	71.7%	N/A
African American	48	93.8%	137	38.7%	59	74.6%	N/A
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disability Status							
Disabled	11	81.8%	41	31.7%	12	58.3%	N/A
Migrant Status							
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
English Proficiency							
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Socio-Economic Status							
Subsidized meals	40	95.0%	196	42.9%	53	67.9%	N/A

NOTE: n=number of students on which percentage is calculated; t=number of tests taken.

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Report of Principal and School Improvement Council

Great Falls High School serves the Chester County School District students in the extreme southeast corner of the county. The student body of approximately 310 students is diverse with 48% African-American, 50% white, 1% Hispanic Heritage, and 1% Native American. We once again made AYP and the Absolute Rating of the school in 2008 was Average with an Improvement Rating of Good, earning us the Palmetto Silver Award. Great Falls High was also awarded the Palmetto Gold Award for closing the achievement gap. Great Falls is now a High Schools That Work site, which allows the school to maximize rigorous instruction and offer better career choice guidance. An Advisor/Advisee Program has been implemented to foster student success and positive choices.

Great Falls High School was granted over \$200,000 in funding to be used over 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. An academic coach was employed to increase achievement and test taking confidence on End of Course tests, HSAP exams, and ACT/ SAT test prep. A summer Jumpstart Program was implemented for select incoming freshmen to prepare them for success at the high school. The literacy initiative is being enriched with Silent Sustained Reading in the language arts classes and mandatory summer reading. A Literacy Strategies That Work notebook was developed through staff development presented by the faculty during the school year. The addition of Senior Projects has added rigor to prepare graduates for college, the military, or the workforce.

Our students can earn dual credits in college level courses offered in the distance learning lab from the University of South Carolina at Lancaster or York Technical College, as well as credits on-line through the NOVA Net program. A record 52 out of 81 seniors this year have a 3.0 GPA needed to be considered Honor Graduates. Twenty-five of our seniors will receive Life Scholarships. The JROTC program at Great Falls High School continues to excel and is designated as an Honor Unit with Distinction with a rating of 97%. Thirty-six percent of GFHS students are members of the program. Great Falls has a rich tradition of athletic participation and achievement offering seven varsity sports. The football, baseball, and basketball teams had winning seasons with the basketball team finishing as the runner-up for the state 1A Championship. The Region 3A Male Athlete of the Year was a product of our athletic program. Over 50% of our GFHS students are involved in the high school athletic program with students receiving scholarships in a variety of sports.

Forty students attended the Chester County Career Center this year to take a variety of career centered courses. There is also an agricultural science class taught in our on-site greenhouse. It is the steadfast intent of the administration, faculty, and staff of Great Falls High to continuously focus on teaching and learning to increase student achievement.

Corey J. Murphy, Principal

Glenn Ross, School Improvement Council Chair

Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	28	58	17
Percent satisfied with learning environment	92.9%	84.5%	82.4%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	92.9%	84.5%	82.4%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	59.3%	89.7%	64.7%

* Only eleventh grade students and their parents were included. For schools without grade eleven, only the highest grade was included.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

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

School Adequate Yearly Progress	NO
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This school met 6 out of 13 objectives. The objectives included student performance, graduation rate or student attendance, and participation in the state testing program.

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.

School Improvement Status	N/A
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School Improvement Key

NI	Newly Identified-The school missed adequate yearly progress (AYP) for two years. Sanction: Offer school choice.
CSI	Continuing School Improvement-The school missed AYP for three years. Sanctions: Continue school choice and implement supplemental services.
CA	Corrective Action-The school missed AYP for four years. Sanction: Continue school choice and supplemental services. The school district takes a corrective action.
RP	Plan to Restructure-Sanctions: Continue school choice and supplemental services. Develop a plan to restructure. If the school misses AYP the next year, the school implements the restructuring plan.
R	Restructure-The school missed AYP after two years of corrective action. Sanctions: Implement the restructuring plan. Continue school choice and supplemental services.
DELAY	The school met AYP in all subgroups and the indicator for one year, thus the delay provision applies. The school remains in the same status as last year and is referred to as in "Delay."
HOLD	The school made progress for one year in the subject area that identified the school for school improvement. The school remains in the same status as last year and is referred to as in "Hold."

Teacher Quality Data

	Our District	State
Classes in low poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	21.8%	1.7%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	5.8%

	Our School	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	0.0%	Yes

HSAP Performance By Group

	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	School % Proficient or Advanced*	District % Proficient or Advanced*	State % Proficient or Advanced*	Performance Objective Met	Participation Objective Met
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English/Language Arts - State Performance Objective = 71.3% (Proficient or Advanced)

All Students	76	100	13.2	48.7	19.7	18.4	52.6	52.4	61.8	No	Yes
Male	42	100	9.5	42.9	23.8	23.8	61.9	52.3	57.4	N/A	N/A
Female	34	100	17.6	55.9	14.7	11.8	41.2	52.5	66.1	N/A	N/A
White	47	100	8.5	44.7	23.4	23.4	61.7	62.6	74.3	No	Yes
African American	28	100	21.4	53.6	14.3	10.7	35.7	41.6	44.9	I/S	I/S
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	77.4	I/S	I/S
Hispanic	1	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	50.3	I/S	I/S
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	55.4	I/S	I/S
Disabled	7	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	23.1	19.4	I/S	I/S
Migrant	N/A	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	N/A	I/S	N/A	N/A
Limited English Proficient	N/A	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	38.5	I/S	I/S
Subsized meals	40	100	15	52.5	22.5	10	42.5	46.4	45.6	No	Yes

Mathematics - State Performance Objective = 70.0% (Proficient or Advanced)

All Students	76	100	18.4	34.2	28.9	18.4	52.6	62.2	62.7	No	Yes
Male	42	100	9.5	31	31	28.6	64.3	63.9	61.8	N/A	N/A
Female	34	100	29.4	38.2	26.5	5.9	38.2	60.6	63.6	N/A	N/A
White	47	100	17	23.4	38.3	21.3	61.7	71	75.1	No	Yes
African American	28	100	21.4	50	14.3	14.3	39.3	53	45.1	I/S	I/S
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	83.8	I/S	I/S
Hispanic	1	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	58.5	I/S	I/S
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	59.2	I/S	I/S
Disabled	7	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	30.8	21.8	I/S	I/S
Migrant	N/A	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	N/A	I/S	N/A	N/A
Limited English Proficient	N/A	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	52.3	I/S	I/S
Subsized meals	40	100	22.5	42.5	22.5	12.5	42.5	55.3	47.9	No	Yes

Physical Science (End-of-Course Test performance by Group)

All Students	74	97.3	52.7	24.3	12.2	8.1	20.3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Male	40	97.5	42.5	30.0	10.0	15.0	25.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Female	34	97.1	64.7	17.6	14.7	N/A	I/S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
White	47	97.9	40.4	29.8	14.9	12.8	27.7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
African American	26	96.2	76.9	15.4	3.8	N/A	I/S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	1	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disabled	5	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Migrant	N/A	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Limited English Proficient	N/A	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Subsized meals	38	94.7	63.2	18.4	10.5	2.6	I/S	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

* Adjusted to account for natural variation in performance.

Two-Year HSAP Trend Data

	School Year	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	School % Proficient or Advanced*	District % Proficient or Advanced*	State % Proficient or Advanced*
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English/Language Arts - State Performance Objective = 71.3% (Proficient or Advanced)

All Students	2008	77	100	10.8	39.2	31.1	18.9	66.2	65.2	69.7
	2009	76	100	13.2	48.7	19.7	18.4	52.6	52.4	61.8

Mathematics - State Performance Objective = 70.0% (Proficient or Advanced)

All Students	2008	77	100	14.9	32.4	32.4	20.3	71.6	69.9	67.2
	2009	76	100	18.4	34.2	28.9	18.4	52.6	62.2	62.7

* Adjusted to account for natural variation in performance.