

SC Annual School Report Card Summary

**Great Falls High
Chester**
Grades: 9-12 **Enrollment: 315**
Principal: Corey J. Murphy
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 AND SILVER AWARD		AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
			General Performance	Closing the Gap		
2009	Average	Below Average	TBD	TBD	Not Met	N/A
2008	Average	Good	Silver	Gold	Met	N/A
2007	Average	Below Average	N/A	N/A	Met	N/A

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 03/23/2010. Schools with Students Like Ours are High Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

HIGH SCHOOL ASSESSMENT PROGRAM(HSAP) EXAM PASSAGE RATE(%): SECOND YEAR STUDENTS

	Our High School		High Schools with Students Like Ours	
	2008	2009	2008	2009
Passed 2 subtests (%)	79.2%	78.4%	77.6%	72.5%
Passed 1 subtest (%)	15.6%	10.8%	11.9%	14.7%
Passed no subtests (%)	5.2%	10.8%	10.5%	12.8%

HSAP PASSAGE RATE (%) BY SPRING 2009

	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Passage Rate	96.4%	92.7%

ON-TIME GRADUATION RATE

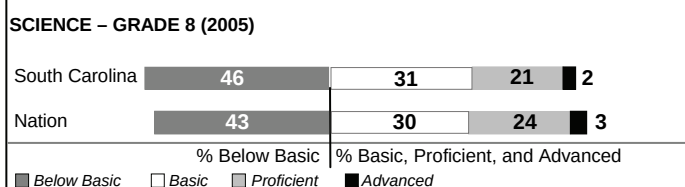
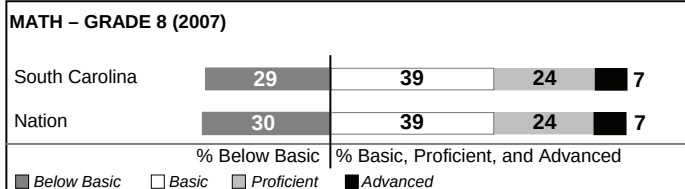
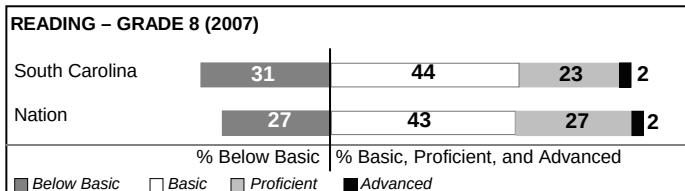
	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
Number of students	107	224
Number of Diplomas	79	161
Rate (%)	73.8%	74.0%

END OF COURSE TESTS - 2009

% of students scoring 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%

NAEP PERFORMANCE*

* 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 CSI Continuing School Improvement CA Corrective Action RP Plan to Restructure R Restructure DELAY School Improvement Status HOLD School Improvement Status

Great Falls High [Chester]

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
Career/technology students attaining technical skills	91.5%	Up from 83.8%	80.5%	79.3%
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
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	No Change	4.7%	3.5%
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
% of AYP objectives met	46.2%	Down from 100.0%	61.7%	64.7%

* Length of contract = 185+ days.

** Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	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 students at the highest high school grade level at this school and their parents were included.

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

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.

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