

SC Annual School District Report Card Summary

Laurens 55 School District
Grades: PK-12 **Enrollment: 6,016**
Superintendent: Dr. Billy R. Strickland
Board Chair: Rev. Charlie Short

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		
2010	Average	Below Average	N/A	N/A	Not Met	CDI
2009	Below Average	Average	N/A	N/A	Not Met	NI
2008	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	2	17	5	0

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 03/24/2011. 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	2010 Reading	2010 Math	2010 Science	2010 Social Studies	2010 Writing
	% Met or above	% Met or above	% Met or above	% Met or above	% Met or above
District	72.4%	69.1%	63.8%	65.6%	71.5%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	68.9%	65.7%	60.9%	65.7%	66.3%
Average District	74.0%	70.6%	67.4%	71.0%	72.0%

PASS	2010 Reading	2010 Math	2010 Science	2010 Social Studies	2010 Writing
	% Exemplary	% Exemplary	% Exemplary	% Exemplary	% Exemplary
District	31.7%	23.3%	13.4%	17.6%	26.0%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	33.2%	26.3%	16.5%	23.3%	26.3%
Average District	39.7%	32.1%	21.9%	29.4%	33.4%

HSAP

HSAP: 2nd Year Students	Passed 2 Subtests (%)	Passed 1 Subtest (%)	Passed No Subtests (%)
District	76.6%	11.7%	11.7%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	75.7%	12.2%	12.1%

HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2010 (%)

District	87.1%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	89.3%

End of Course Test Passage Rate (%)

District	68.4%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	60.0%

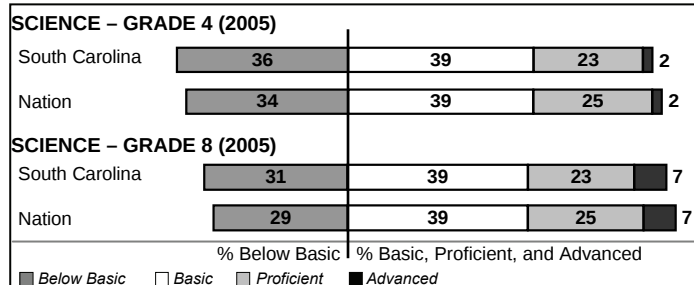
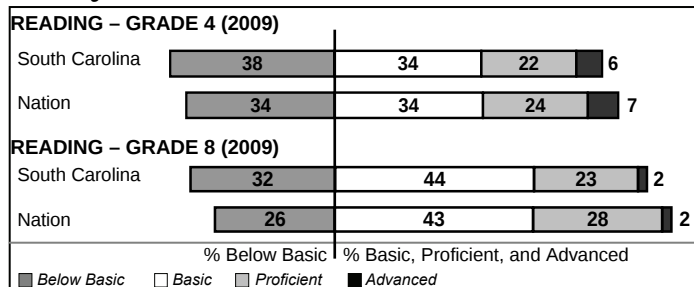
On-Time Graduation Rate (%)

District	64.3%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	72.6%

** 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

Laurens 55 School District

DISTRICT PROFILE

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with Students Like Ours	Median District
Students (n=6,016)				
Retention rate	3.2%	Up from 3.0%	2.9%	2.3%
Attendance rate	95.6%	Down from 97.0%	95.6%	95.8%
Eligible for gifted and talented	9.0%	Up from 6.2%	13.3%	14.3%
With disabilities other than speech	9.7%	Down from 9.8%	11.0%	10.5%
Older than usual for grade	6.1%	Up from 5.0%	5.0%	4.5%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.1%	No Change	0.7%	0.7%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	13.2%	Up from 11.4%	8.6%	12.1%
Successful on AP/IB exams	28.8%	Down from 34.2%	47.8%	50.0%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	28.2%	Up from 25.4%	31.3%	31.4%
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	80	Down from 93	47	47
Completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	52	Up from 46	31	29
Annual dropout rate	9.8%	Up from 5.4%	3.3%	3.1%
Teachers (n=360)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	53.6%	Up from 52.4%	58.9%	58.8%
Continuing contract teachers	81.1%	Down from 82.7%	83.5%	81.5%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	2.2%	Down from 3.0%	4.1%	4.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	89.4%	Up from 87.7%	89.4%	89.3%
Teacher attendance rate	95.8%	Up from 95.5%	95.3%	95.3%
Average teacher salary*	\$45,611	Down 0.4%	\$45,687	\$46,618
Vacancies for more than nine weeks	0.0%	Down from 0.3%	0.0%	0.2%
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	2.6%	Down from 3.6%	1.9%	2.0%
Professional development days/teacher	13.0 days	Down from 15.0 days	12.3 days	12.6 days
District				
Superintendent's years at district	1.0	No Change	2.5	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	23.6 to 1	Up from 21.8 to 1	20.6 to 1	20.9 to 1
Prime instructional time	90.7%	Down from 91.7%	89.5%	89.9%
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$8,668	Up 0.4%	\$9,371	\$9,364
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	53.3%	Up from 50.2%	53.2%	53.3%
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	55.7%	Up from 53.1%	56.0%	56.3%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Number of schools	11	No Change	8	9
Portable classrooms	1.3%	Up from 1.2%	1.5%	2.4%
Average age in years of school facilities	33 Years	Up from 32 Years	29 Years	27 Years
Number of schools with SACS accreditation	11.0	No Change	7.0	8.0
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	Up from 88.5%	97.3%	97.1%
Average administrator salary	\$83,101	No Change	\$78,358	\$79,261
Number of charter schools	0	No Change	0	0
% of AYP objectives met	N/A		N/A	N/A

* Length of contract = 185+ days.

** Prior year audited financial data available.

RESIDENTIAL TREATMENT FACILITIES STUDENT PERFORMANCE

	PASS	HSAP	End-of-Course Tests
Passage Rate	N/A	N/A	N/A

CHARTER SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT

School Name	Absolute Rating	Growth Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
There are no charter schools in this district.			

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

The 2009-2010 school year was one of change for Laurens County School District No. 55. The board of trustees selected me as the district superintendent, and I began service on July 1, 2009. Although budget constraints were a major area of concern, District 55 remained committed to making every moment matter by preparing students for the future through a relevant and challenging education.

During this transitional year, our district began the process of pursuing SACS CASI District Accreditation through the AdvancED worldwide organization. This extensive national accreditation process has afforded our district the opportunity to closely examine our policies and practices and to consider how all of these impact student performance. We have already seen the benefits of this process through improved communication and increased involvement among our entire staff and our community. Every department within the district has established goals for their area and has examined strategies for improvements that will benefit our students. District accreditation involves all areas of the school system because ultimately every employee contributes to the success of our students.

A central component of the district accreditation process has been the creation of a district vision statement that will guide our policies and practices over the next five years. After gathering much input from our stakeholders, our vision is that Laurens County School District No. 55 will be a system of excellence and equity in educational practices for each learner. As a district, we have embraced this vision and have used it and will continue to use it as a basis for our decision making.

With our vision in mind, we have confronted our financial challenges and examined the budget line by line to reduce spending without impacting classroom instruction. We have cut operating costs in the district through concerted efforts to reduce energy consumption, consolidate our procurement practices, conserve supplies and materials, and eliminate all but necessary travel. Due to these cost-saving efforts, we did not eliminate any staff during the school year, and we have been able to continue to provide a quality education for our students so that they can succeed and can make a valuable contribution to society.

The success of Laurens County School District No. 55 comes, of course, from the support we receive from all stakeholders, including parents, volunteers, and the business community. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated.

Billy R. Strickland, Ed.D., Superintendent

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