SC Annual School Report Card Summary

WHALE BRANCH ELEMENTARY
Beaufort County
Grades: PK-4 **Enrollment: 338**
Principal: Don D. Doggett
Superintendent: Dr. Valerie Truesdale
Board Chair: Fred Washington

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.

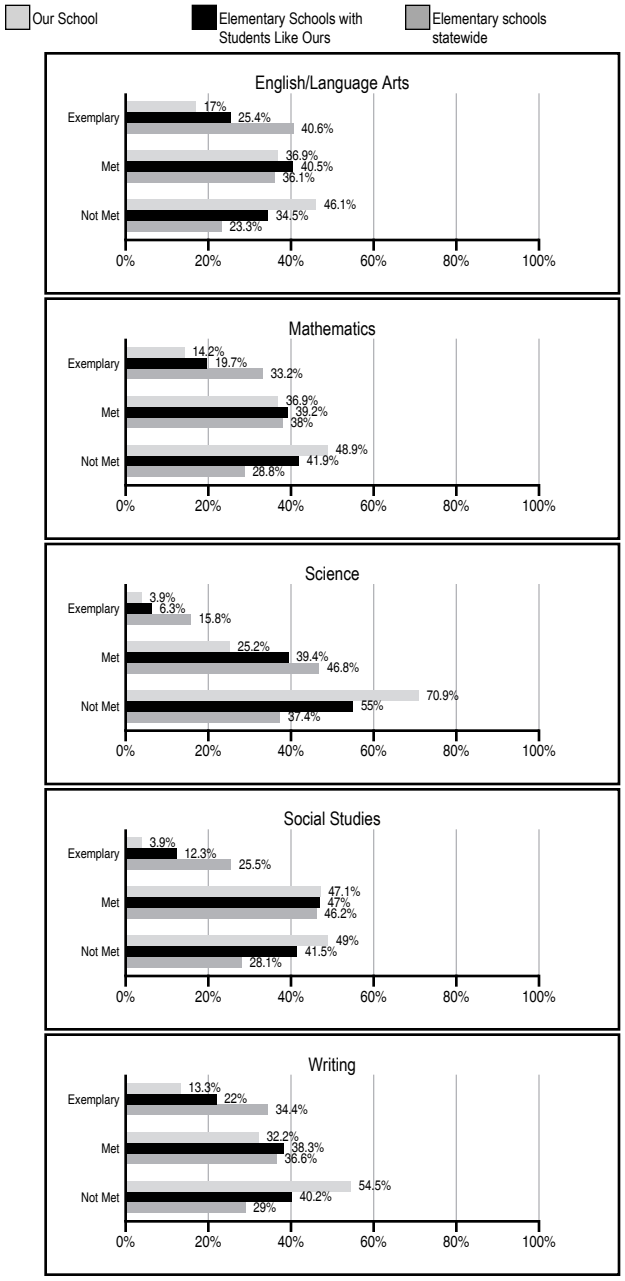
YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING	PALMETTO GOLD AND SILVER AWARD		AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
			General Performance	Closing the Gap		
2010	Below Average	Below Average	TBD	TBD	Met	R-DELAY
2009	At-Risk	Below Average	N/A	N/A	Not Met	R
2008	At-Risk	Good	N/A	N/A	Not Met	R

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
0	4	91	59	24

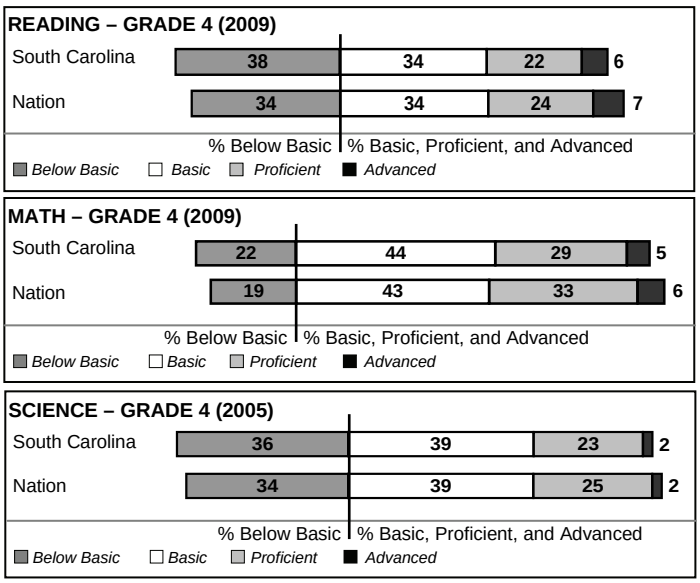
** Ratings are calculated with data available by 03/09/2011. Schools with Students Like Ours are Elementary Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.*

PASS PERFORMANCE



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
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WHALE BRANCH ELEMENTARY [Beaufort County]

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary School
Students (n=338)				
Retention rate	0.3%	Down from 1.2%	1.5%	1.2%
Attendance rate	98.0%	Up from 95.7%	95.9%	96.1%
Eligible for gifted and talented	4.9%	Down from 6.4%	4.7%	11.7%
With disabilities other than speech	8.6%	Down from 9.5%	8.4%	8.0%
Older than usual for grade	0.0%	Down from 0.5%	0.8%	0.4%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=33)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	57.6%	Up from 55.2%	60.0%	60.5%
Continuing contract teachers	60.6%	Down from 69.0%	79.7%	84.6%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	63.8%	Down from 70.0%	83.6%	87.0%
Teacher attendance rate	95.4%	Up from 93.7%	95.4%	95.4%
Average teacher salary*	$51,676	Up 5.8%	$45,459	$47,288
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	Down from 6.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Professional development days/teacher	18.5 days	Up from 17.3 days	10.6 days	10.5 days
School				
Principal's years at school	1.0	Down from 4.0	4.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	16.9 to 1	Down from 18.0 to 1	17.3 to 1	19.2 to 1
Prime instructional time	89.6%	Up from 87.4%	90.4%	90.8%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	Up from No	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	99.9%	Down from 100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Character development program	Good	Up from Average	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil**	$12,122	Up 22.9%	$8,596	$7,548
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	73.0%	Down from 73.1%	68.1%	68.7%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	65.4%	Up from 58.4%	62.4%	65.1%
% of AYP objectives met	100.0%	Up from 92.3%	100.0%	100.0%

* Length of contract = 185+ days.

** Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	29	72	35
Percent satisfied with learning environment	51.7%	80.3%	80.0%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	75.0%	68.1%	91.2%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	51.7%	83.1%	82.9%

*Only students at the highest elementary school grade level at this school and their parents were included.

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REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Whale Branch Elementary School has had an outstanding school year. We have merged our program with James J. Davis Elementary, and the total school program is housed on both campuses. We extended our school year with the addition of twenty days of instruction designed to increase student achievement. MAP scores are up on each grade level, and the level of rigor has also been increased schoolwide. To continue to support the academic component of our school program, we partnered with the middle school in our cluster to present Literacy Nights to parents and students. We hosted our first-ever Family Writing Night, with guest authors and illustrators providing presentations to parents and students. Our wonderful staff worked with parents to focus instruction on pinpointed areas of need for our students based on the MAP test. Weekly planning meetings, a 200 day calendar, afterschool activities, parent sessions, Student Celebrations for Academic Improvement on MAP tests, and active involvement from PTO and SIC served to promote our school mission and goals.

The teacher and parent members of the School Improvement Council engaged in the development of our strategic plan, which focused on raising academic achievement in the area of social studies and science. This year 4th grade classes were departmentalized and students who were close to scoring Met or Exemplary on the PASS test received instruction from our gifted and talented teacher.

As a Red Carpet Award winner, Whale Branch Elementary School has made customer service a top priority. Students, parents, and community members have begun to feel that our school is truly a community school and that it belongs to each stakeholder.

All students were involved in community-service projects during the 2009-2010 school year, learning about the importance of citizenship and contributing to the community at large. Students raised funds for Haiti, Pennies for Patients, Leukemia, and for Relay for Life. With the support of the Kiwanis Club, we were able to continue our K-kids program that supports schoolwide service efforts. We were able to form a Cub Scout pack for the first time in the history of our school. Our students completed studies about Fire Safety, readers' theatre, habitats, and mining. These experiences gave our scouts an opportunity to apply their skills and learning to everyday life experiences. The school enjoyed grant funding for an afterschool program which provided transportation for the scouts, and we have applied for ongoing funds for the 2010-2011 school year.

All students received books through Reading is Fundamental (RIF), and parents received tips on how to work and read with their children at home. Books that were autographed by visiting authors and illustrators were provided to each child as well. Three additional book distributions were provided that added 20 books to home libraries. Students were able to choose these books during breakfast and lunch times. This will continue to be a focus as we go into the 2010-2011 school year.

Whale Branch Elementary School continued working with the Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) with ongoing professional development in the areas of effective teaching strategies and best practices. Staff development was provided in balanced literary, read-aloud, and independent reading. Professional development will continue during the 2010-11 school year, with a focus on guided reading, curriculum mapping, and formative assessments.

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