



Whale Branch Elementary School

15 Stuart Point Road
Seabrook, SC 29940

Grades	PK-4 Elementary School	
Enrollment	497 Students	
Principal	Anita Lynn Singleton	843-466-1000
Superintendent	Dr. Valerie Truesdale	843-322-2300
Board Chair	Fred Washington	843-322-2356

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2012 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2012	Below Average	Average
2011	Below Average	Average
2010	Below Average	Below Average
2009	At-Risk	Below Average
2008	At-Risk	Good

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 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.

<http://ed.sc.gov>
<http://www.eoc.sc.gov>

Percent of Student PASS Records Matched for Purpose of Computing Growth Rating

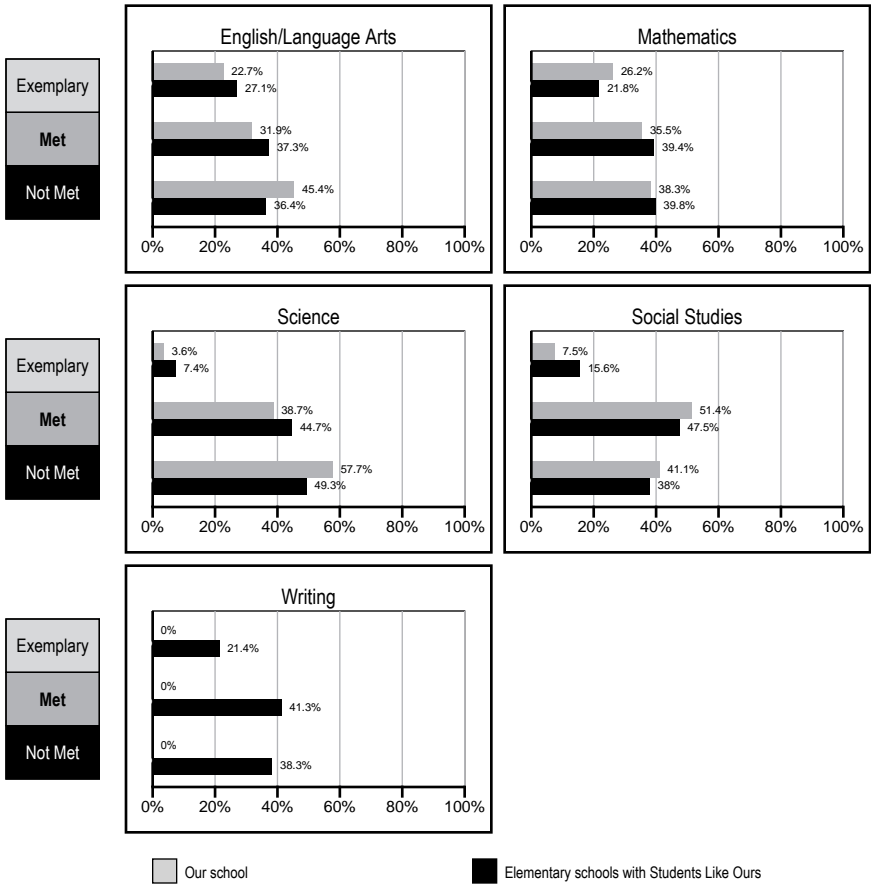
Percent of students tested in 2011-12 whose 2010-11 test scores were located | 97.4%

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
2	10	80	47	19

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 11/07/2012.

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)



* Elementary schools with Students Like Ours are elementary schools with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for the school.

Definition of Critical Terms

Exemplary	"Exemplary" means the student demonstrated exemplary performance in meeting the grade level standard.
Met	"Met" means the student met the grade level standard.
Not Met	"Not Met" means that the student did not meet the grade level standard.

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	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary School
Students (n=497)				
First graders who attended full-day kindergarten	100.0%	No Change	100.0%	100.0%
Retention rate	0.2%	Up from 0.0%	1.3%	1.0%
Attendance rate	96.8%	Up from 96.6%	96.3%	96.6%
Served by gifted and talented program	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
With disabilities other than speech	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Older than usual for grade	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=44)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	40.9%	Down from 51.5%	62.5%	63.0%
Continuing contract teachers	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Teachers returning from previous year	55.6%	Up from 51.8%	85.3%	88.7%
Teacher attendance rate	92.5%	Down from 94.6%	95.5%	95.1%
Average teacher salary*	\$47,285	Down 6.5%	\$45,007	\$47,210
Professional development days/teacher	19.9 days	Up from 11.1 days	9.5 days	10.5 days
School				
Principal's years at school	1.0	Down from 2.0	4.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	18.5 to 1	Up from 16.9 to 1	18.0 to 1	20.0 to 1
Prime instructional time	87.5%	Down from 88.3%	90.7%	90.5%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	23.6%	Down from 100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Character development program	Excellent	Up from Average	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$9,965	Down 18.5%	\$8,386	\$7,247
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	70.0%	Down from 71.4%	66.2%	68.2%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	63.3%	Up from 62.6%	62.9%	65.7%

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

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

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Report of Principal and School Improvement Council

Whale Branch Elementary School is located in rural Seabrook, SC near the Whale Branch River. In addition to the main campus, Whale Branch is also comprised of Davis Early Learning Center, located on Keans Neck Road in Dale, SC. We serve a population of approximately 504 students. 87% of our students are African American and 96% of them receive subsidized meals.

Whale Branch Elementary School made great strides during the 2011-2012 school year. We were released from the Palmetto Priority Turnaround School list and continued in our third year as an Accelerated Learning School. As an Accelerated Learning School, we provided twenty additional days of instructional time to "accelerate the learning process" of students in our school. The results of the additional instructional time and a rigorous curriculum were evidenced as we were recognized by the Teacher Advancement Program (TAP) for achieving a Value-Added Growth score of "5" on the TAP rubric, signifying student gains of more than 1.5 years, as measured on MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) and the PASS (Palmetto Assessment of State Standards). The gains attained are larger than what would normally be expected at a school of a similar size and demographics.

On-going professional development, which included TAP, also contributed to our gains. The implementation of TAP afforded weekly, collaborative professional development sessions that tailor to teacher and student needs. We focused on implementing research based instructional strategies based on our data.

Believing that a healthy body contributes to a "healthy brain", an emphasis has been placed on health and wellness. We received the Healthier US School bronze award from the White House for our promotion of a healthier school environment. In addition, we are the recipients of a "Farm to School Grant"; which allows students to eat locally grown fruits and vegetables. Students have also participated in growing a garden at school. We are privileged to have onsite health services provided by Beaufort Jasper Comprehensive Health Services through the Sheldon Township Project. Next year we will see the addition of a Dental Clinic to our building.

In an effort to promote community involvement and college readiness, we instituted several school-wide events. These events included College and Career Week, Grandparent's Day, Pastries for Pastors and Community Members, and Bully Prevention Week. Our efforts proved to be successful, as evidenced by strong community support. As we prepare for the upcoming school year, we will continue to focus on improving student achievement. Our goal is to increase parent involvement, attract and maintain highly qualified staff, and provide professional development opportunities for faculty and staff members, with emphasis on Differentiation and Cultural Diversity.

Anita Lynn Singleton, Principal

Jessie Simmons, SIC President

Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	33	65	30
Percent satisfied with learning environment	75.0%	82.5%	86.7%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	84.8%	83.3%	83.3%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	54.5%	80.3%	83.3%

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

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ESEA/Federal Accountability Rating System

In July 2012, the South Carolina Department of Education was granted a waiver from several accountability requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This waiver allowed SC to replace the former pass/fail system with one that utilizes more of the statewide assessments already in place and combine these subject area results with graduation rate (in high schools) to determine if each school met the target or made progress toward the target. This analysis results in a letter grade for the school rather than the pass/fail system of previous years. For a detailed review of the matrix for each school and districts that determined the letter grade, please use the following link: <http://ed.sc.gov/data/esea/> or request this information from your child's district or school.

Overall Weighted Points Total	62.7
Overall Grade Conversion	D

Index Score	Grade	Description
90-100	A	Performance substantially exceeds the state's expectations.
80-89.9	B	Performance exceeds the state's expectations.
70-79.9	C	Performance meets the state's expectations.
60-69.9	D	Performance does not meet the state's expectations.
Less than 60	F	Performance is substantially below the state's expectations

Accountability Indicator for Title I Schools

Whale Branch Elementary School school has been designated as a:

- Title I Reward School for Performance - among the highest performing Title I schools in a given year.
- Title I Reward School for Progress – one of the schools with substantial progress in student subgroups.
- Title I Focus School – one of the schools with the highest average performance gap between subgroups.
- Title I Priority School – one of the 5% lowest performing Title I schools.
- Title I School – does not qualify as Reward, Focus or Priority School.
- Non-Title I School – therefore the designations above are not applicable.

Teacher Quality and Student Attendance

	Our District	State
Classes in low poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	6.9%	2.6%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	8.9%	5.1%

	Our School	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	4.9%	0.0%	No
Student attendance rate	96.8%	94.0%*	Yes

* Or greater than last year

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Performance By Group

Subgroups	ELA Mean	Math Mean	Science Mean	Social Studies Mean	ELA % Tested	Math % Tested
Grades 3-5						
All Students	629.1	634.2	592.3	610.4	100.0	100.0
Male	628.1	630.8	592.4	608.1	100.0	100.0
Female	629.9	637.1	592.2	612.2	100.0	100.0
White	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
African American	623.3	628.2	587.8	610.1	100.0	100.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	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
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disabled	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Subsidized meals	628.2	633.2	592.6	610.1	100.0	100.0
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	630.0	630.0	630.0	630.0	95.0	95.0

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PASS Performance By Grade Level

	Grade	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Not Met	% Met	% Exemplary	% Met or Exemplary
English/Language Arts							
2011	3	90	100	34.5	33.3	32.1	65.5
	4	84	98.8	45.3	32	22.7	54.7
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2012	3	74	100	32.3	26.2	41.5	67.7
	4	82	100	55.1	35.9	9	44.9
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
8	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mathematics							
2011	3	90	100	45.2	22.6	32.1	54.8
	4	84	100	35.5	34.2	30.3	64.5
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2012	3	74	100	32.3	29.2	38.5	67.7
	4	82	100	42.3	39.7	17.9	57.7
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
8	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Science							
2011	3	45	100	65.9	29.3	4.9	34.1
	4	84	100	47.4	44.7	7.9	52.6
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2012	3	39	100	52.9	35.3	11.8	47.1
	4	82	100	59	39.7	1.3	41
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
8	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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PASS Performance By Grade Level

	Grade	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Not Met	% Met	% Exemplary	% Met or Exemplary
Social Studies							
2011	3	45	100	46.5	39.5	14	53.5
	4	84	100	36.8	53.9	9.2	63.2
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	8	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2012	3	35	100	45.2	38.7	16.1	54.8
	4	82	100	38.5	55.1	6.4	61.5
	5	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	8	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Writing							
2011	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
2012	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	6	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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