



South Carolina Connections Academy

220 Stoneridge Drive,
Columbia, SC 29001

Grades	K-12 Middle School	
Enrollment	2,794 Students	
Principal	Allison R. Reaves	803-212-4712
Superintendent	Wayne Brazell, Ph.D.	803-734-8322
Board Chair	Don McLaurin	803-603-1441

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2012 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD



RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2012	Average	Average
2011	Average	Average
2010	Average	Average
2009	Average	Below Average
2008	N/A	N/A

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

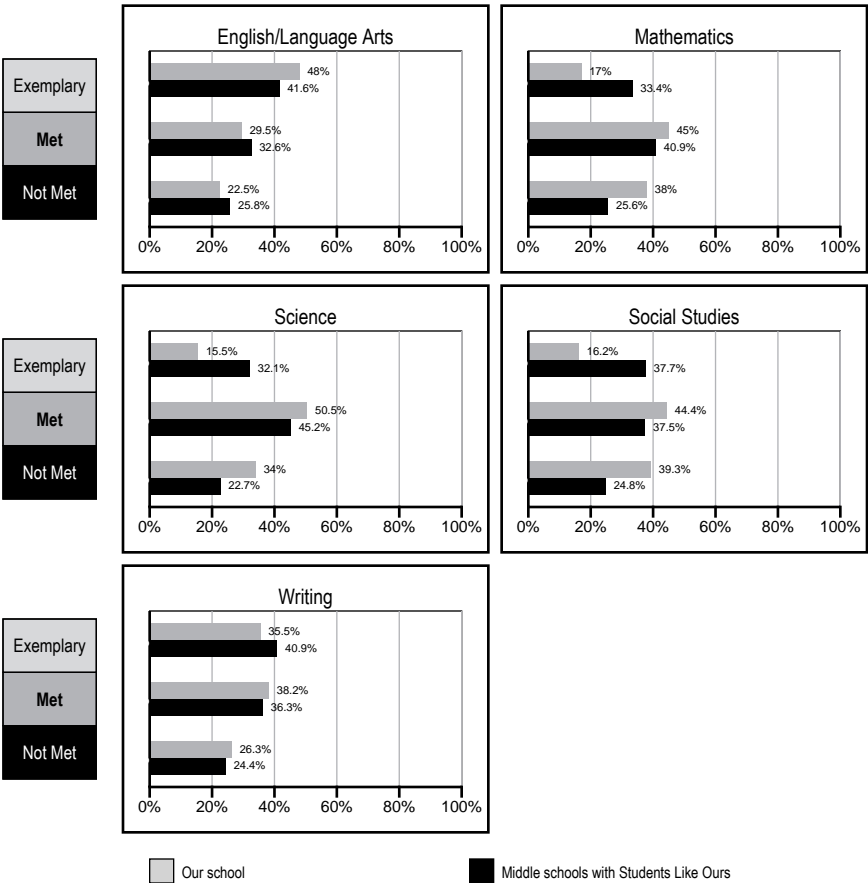
Percent of students tested in 2011-12 whose 2010-11 test scores were located | 82.4%

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
14	19	15	0	1

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

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)



* Middle schools with Students Like Ours are middle 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

End of Course Tests

Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our Middle School	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	90.6%	97.7%
English 1	100.0%	87.7%
Physical Science	N/A	N/A
US History and the Constitution	N/A	N/A
All Subjects	92.1%	95.2%

School Profile

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
Students (n=2,794)				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	13.6%	Down from 17.2%	34.2%	22.9%
Retention rate	2.9%	Down from 4.6%	0.6%	0.8%
Attendance rate	98.3%	Up from 95.1%	96.3%	96.2%
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	0.8%	0.5%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	Down from 4.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=74)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	51.4%	Up from 40.7%	60.8%	61.3%
Continuing contract teachers	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Teachers returning from previous year	81.6%	N/A	88.2%	86.7%
Teacher attendance rate	96.0%	Down from 98.8%	95.3%	95.2%
Average teacher salary*	\$35,577	Up 5.9%	\$46,832	\$46,422
Professional development days/teacher	12.4 days	Up from 11.0 days	11.4 days	10.0 days
School				
Principal's years at school	3.0	Up from 2.0	3.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	N/R	N/R	24.1 to 1	22.0 to 1
Prime instructional time	94.0%	Up from 93.9%	90.2%	90.1%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	Up from Poor	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	No Change	98.2%	98.8%
Character development program	Excellent	Up from Average	Good	Good
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$5,127	Down 12.9%	\$7,085	\$7,245
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	83.0%	Down from 87.0%	63.1%	63.1%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	52.6%	Up from 20.5%	61.5%	60.9%

* 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

South Carolina Connections Academy (SCCA) is a pioneering, public virtual charter school that opened during the 2008-2009 school year as a member of the SC Public Charter School District. SCCA offers a premier online education to students in grades K-12 regardless of where they reside in the state. Our curriculum meets national and state standards while simultaneously meeting the personal needs of all of our students. Students progress through the program under the guidance of their Learning Coach (typically a parent or guardian) in conjunction with their highly qualified SC certified teachers. Regular interaction occurs via phone, e-mail, Field Trips and live web conferences. Student work is then submitted online for teacher review. Our user friendly Education Management System (EMS) includes: coursework, a daily planner, a grade book, attendance recorder, communication tools, a virtual library, message boards, and supplemental learning programs. The EMS provides all the necessary information, at your fingertips, to successfully learn anywhere there is an internet connection. This unique system sets us apart from all other virtual charter schools. SCCA offers advanced curriculum to Gifted and Talented students in grades 3 through 8 Science, Math, and Language Arts. These students participate in a Literature Study course using the Junior Great Books series. Teachers in our Special Education Department serve students according to Individualized Education Plans. Students requiring speech services participate in Virtual Speech sessions. Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Services are also provided through contracted, certified providers. Our high school program includes approximately 1,025 students across the state. The selection of courses we offer is varied and challenging. Students are able to study Foreign Languages such as Mandarin Chinese, Latin, French, and Spanish. We also offer 20 Advanced Placement courses and a variety of college preparatory electives. Our graduation requirements are more rigorous than the state mandates. SCCA requires all students to successfully complete two years of foreign languages or humanities. In addition, a full year of health and a full year of American Government are required. In an effort to create a sense of community, various Field Trips and teacher created face-to-face learning experiences were planned statewide. These opportunities allowed students, parents, and teachers to interact and socialize. Over 90 opportunities were held during the 2011-2012 school year including museum, zoo and aquarium tours; environmental awareness activities; an arts festival featuring student work; academic hands on activities; a Field Day and Graduation.

Allison R. Reaves, M. ED., SCCA Executive Director
Kelly McNally, SIC Chair

Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	66	46	129
Percent satisfied with learning environment	92.3%	93.0%	96.8%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	87.7%	91.4%	74.8%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	90.9%	97.7%	90.6%

* Only students at the highest middle 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	74.0
Overall Grade Conversion	C

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

South Carolina Connections Academy 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	13.1%	2.6%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	13.6%	5.1%

	Our School	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	10.9%	0.0%	No
Student attendance rate	98.3%	94.0%*	Yes

* Or greater than last year

Abbreviations for Missing Data

Performance By Group

Subgroups	ELA Mean	Math Mean	Science Mean	Social Studies Mean	ELA % Tested	Math % Tested
Grades 6-8						
All Students	656.5	630.9	616.4	614.9	98.8	99.0
Male	649.9	631.0	616.7	619.1	98.3	98.6
Female	662.3	630.8	616.1	611.5	99.2	99.3
White	657.2	631.6	617.9	614.4	98.6	98.8
African American	646.0	622.6	604.9	604.0	99.1	99.1
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	687.2	659.4	650.6	646.5	98.6	100.0
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disabled	609.3	599.3	582.7	589.2	97.5	98.1
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Subsidized meals	646.1	621.1	607.4	606.9	98.3	98.5
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	624.0	624.0	624.0	624.0	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	126	100	28.3	30.3	41.4	71.7
	4	172	97.7	21.4	38.6	40	78.6
	5	180	98.9	23.7	41.7	34.5	76.3
	6	222	97.8	21.1	34.2	44.7	78.9
	7	279	95.3	22.8	29	48.2	77.2
	8	285	97.5	25.9	36.6	37.6	74.1
2012	3	124	96.8	23.2	21.2	55.6	76.8
	4	179	98.3	21	37.8	41.3	79
	5	215	98.6	24.3	37.9	37.9	75.7
	6	269	99.3	20.6	25.8	53.6	79.4
	7	292	99	16.9	32.9	50.2	83.1
	8	360	99.2	27.1	30.2	42.7	72.9
Mathematics							
2011	3	126	100	51.5	27.3	21.2	48.5
	4	172	97.7	40.7	40.7	18.6	59.3
	5	180	98.9	43.2	35.3	21.6	56.8
	6	222	97.8	37.5	34.4	28.1	62.5
	7	279	95	39.4	39.4	21.2	60.6
	8	285	97.5	42	42	16.1	58
2012	3	124	97.6	42.4	33.3	24.2	57.6
	4	179	98.9	35.4	44.4	20.1	64.6
	5	215	98.6	43.8	37.3	18.9	56.2
	6	269	99.6	31.9	48.1	20	68.1
	7	292	99.3	33.6	44.5	21.8	66.4
	8	360	98.9	45.7	43.7	10.6	54.3
Science							
2011	3	60	100	41.7	37.5	20.8	58.3
	4	172	96.5	40	46.9	13.1	60
	5	92	98.9	35.2	52.1	12.7	64.8
	6	101	99	38.7	54.7	6.7	61.3
	7	279	94.6	25.5	55.7	18.8	74.5
	8	141	99.3	42.2	34.3	23.5	57.8
2012	3	63	98.4	38.5	36.5	25	61.5
	4	179	98.9	35.4	61.8	2.8	64.6
	5	104	99	33.3	48.1	18.5	66.7
	6	137	100	40	52.7	7.3	60
	7	292	99	32	53.9	14.2	68
	8	178	99.4	31.8	43.4	24.8	68.2

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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	66	98.5	43.1	41.2	15.7	56.9
	4	172	95.9	29.9	52.8	17.4	70.1
	5	88	97.7	43.3	22.4	34.3	56.7
	6	120	94.2	25.3	50.6	24.1	74.7
	7	279	95	44.8	40.1	15.1	55.2
	8	142	95.8	31.1	33	35.9	68.9
2012	3	59	96.6	52.2	32.6	15.2	47.8
	4	179	98.9	27.8	55.6	16.7	72.2
	5	111	97.3	36	43	20.9	64
	6	132	97	26.3	55.6	18.2	73.7
	7	292	98.6	46.6	38.4	15.1	53.4
	8	182	98.4	34.1	48.4	17.5	65.9
Writing							
2011	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	185	93.5	26.5	44.9	28.7	73.5
	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	300	92	30.2	37.7	32.1	69.8
2012	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	218	97.3	38.8	37.6	23.5	61.2
	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	356	97.5	24.3	39.2	36.5	75.7

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