



Whale Branch Elementary School

15 Stuart Point Road
Beaufort, SC 29940

Grades	PK-4 Elementary School	
Enrollment	445 Students	
Principal	Anita Lynn Singleton	843-466-1000
Superintendent	Dr. Jackie Rosswurm	843-322-2300
Board Chair	Bill Evans	843-322-2357

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2013 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2013	Average	Excellent
2012	Below Average	Average
2011	Below Average	Average
2010	Below Average	Below Average
2009	At-Risk	Below Average

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

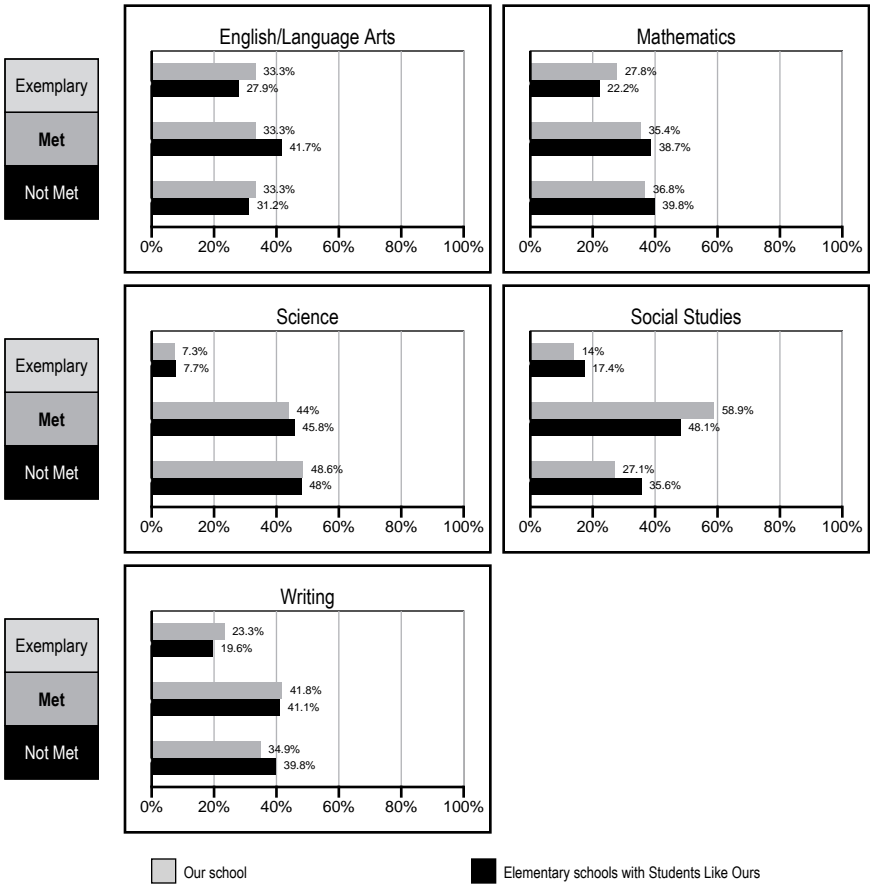
Percent of students tested in 2012-13 whose 2011-12 test scores were located | 94.5%

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
1	12	93	45	15

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 12/14/2013.

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 /S–Insufficient Sample

School Profile

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary School
Students (n=445)				
First graders who attended full-day kindergarten	100.0%	No Change	100.0%	100.0%
Retention rate	0.4%	Up from 0.2%	1.1%	0.9%
Attendance rate	96.4%	Down from 96.8%	95.9%	96.3%
Served by gifted and talented program	2.5%	N/A	2.7%	7.2%
With disabilities	6.7%	N/A	13.4%	12.4%
Older than usual for grade	1.0%	N/A	2.9%	1.9%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=39)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	51.3%	Up from 40.9%	60.0%	62.5%
Continuing contract teachers	48.7%	Up from 47.7%	76.2%	83.3%
Teachers returning from previous year	64.3%	Up from 55.6%	84.7%	88.3%
Teacher attendance rate	94.2%	Up from 92.5%	94.9%	95.0%
Average teacher salary*	\$45,573	Down 3.6%	\$46,154	\$48,193
Professional development days/teacher	17.9 days	Down from 19.9 days	10.4 days	11.0 days
School				
Principal's years at school	2.0	Up from 1.0	3.3	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	22.4 to 1	Up from 18.5 to 1	17.9 to 1	20.1 to 1
Prime instructional time	89.5%	Up from 87.5%	89.6%	90.0%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	91.0%	Up from 23.6%	100.0%	100.0%
Character development program	Excellent	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$7,118	Down 28.6%	\$8,292	\$7,364
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	66.0%	Down from 70.0%	67.0%	68.0%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	60.0%	Down from 63.3%	64.0%	66.0%

* 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

It's been another great year at Whale Branch Elementary School! We serve a population of approximately 510 students. 83% of the students are African-American and 93% of the students receive subsidized meals. Equipping students with the tools to be responsible, caring citizens was a major focus during the 2012-2013 school year. A month-long "Random Acts of Kindness" Project took place that involved school and community members. A school-wide Recycling Program was implemented along with a recycling task force. Our efforts were recognized by the Mayor and members of the City Council as a proclamation was signed declaring November 15th "America Recycles Day" in Beaufort County. In addition, Whale Branch Elementary School was recognized by the U. S. Green Building Council as the first place winner in the elementary school division of the Green School Challenge. We were also the recipients of a PBIS ribbon award.

Data continued to drive instruction. This was evidenced by weekly Progress Monitoring meetings where grade levels discussed data and strategies for success in all content areas. Information from MAP (Measures of Academic Progress) and PASS was also used to inform instruction.

Students in grades 1st through 4th received instruction in Spanish. KITE-LL (Kids Interacting Through Early Language Learning), was also implemented in 3rd and 4th grade s. KITE-LL is an elementary language program that draws from grade-level content standards (primarily social studies, language arts, science, and mathematics) to teach Spanish.

The staff continued to engage in professional development activities that focused on Academic Vocabulary, the components of Balanced Literacy, Daily 5, and the integration of technology into the classroom. Most impressive was the fact that several of our staff members received gifted and talented endorsement.

An Afterschool Homework Center for third and fourth graders along with an afterschool art and music program was also added to our program.

Our collaboration with community agencies and businesses continues to grow. The Pepsi Corporation has been one of our biggest supporters of incentives for students. Our school is used as a YMCA summer camp site during the summer. Our school is a site for health and dental services through Beaufort-Jasper Comprehensive Health Services.

Anita L. Singleton, Principal Jessie Simmons, SIC Chairperson

Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	27	74	36
Percent satisfied with learning environment	92.5%	75.7%	80.5%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	92.8%	75.3%	94.1%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	57.2%	75.3%	77.8%

* 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 2013, 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	69.5
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	7.6%	2.3%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	4.1%	4.9%

	Our School	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	0.0%	Yes
Student attendance rate	96.4%	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	644.3	632.6	602.7	625.0	100.0	100.0
Male	648.9	634.7	612.6	632.3	100.0	100.0
Female	639.3	630.3	593.0	616.3	100.0	100.0
White	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
African American	639.0	627.4	595.0	619.2	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	641.2	628.9	599.2	620.3	100.0	100.0
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	635.0	635.0	635.0	635.0	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							
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
2013	3	84	100	35.5	18.4	46.1	64.5
	4	79	100	28.8	46.6	24.7	71.2
	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	
Mathematics							
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
2013	3	84	100	50	22.4	27.6	50
	4	79	100	20.5	46.6	32.9	79.5
	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	
Science							
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
2013	3	42	100	53.8	35.9	10.3	46.2
	4	79	100	43.8	47.9	8.2	56.2
	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	

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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							
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
2013	8	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	3	43	100	28.9	60.5	10.5	71.1
	4	79	100	26	57.5	16.4	74
	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
2013	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							
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
2013	8	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	3	87	95.4	40.5	35.1	24.3	59.5
	4	80	98.8	29.2	48.6	22.2	70.8
	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
2013	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

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