



# SC Annual School Report Card Summary

Great Falls Elementary School  
 Chester County  
 Grades: PK-5 Enrollment: 393  
 Principal: Wendell B. Sumter  
 Superintendent: Dr. Agnes Slayman  
 Board Chair: Mrs. Maggie J. James

## PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov) and [www.eoc.sc.gov](http://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		ESEA/FEDERAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING SYSTEM	
			General Performance	Closing the Gap	ESEA Grade	Accountability Indicator
2013	Average	At-Risk	TBD	TBD	D	N/A
2012	Average	Below Average	N/A	N/A	B	N/A
2011	Average	Below Average	N/A	N/A	Not Met	N/A

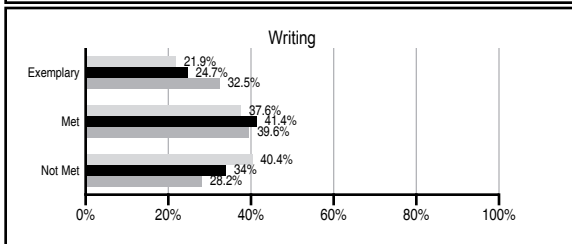
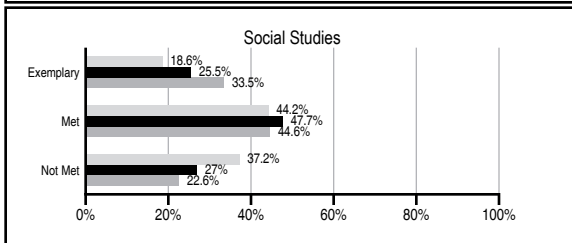
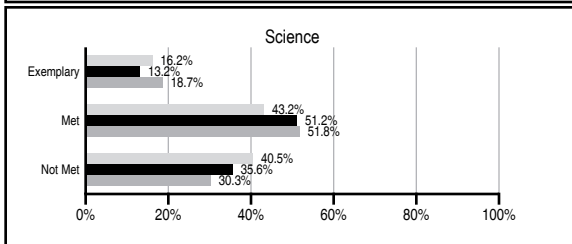
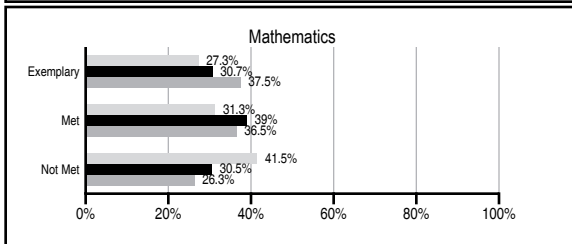
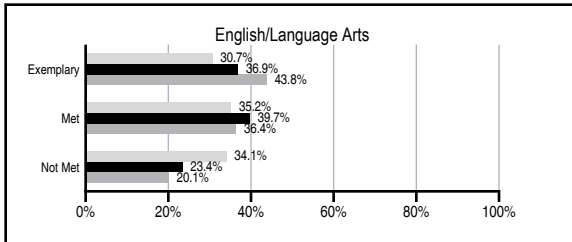
## ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS\*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
10	20	90	10	1

\* Ratings are calculated with data available by 11/07/2013. 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

Our School  
 Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours  
 Elementary schools statewide



## NAEP PERFORMANCE\*

\* Performance reported for SC and nation, data not available at school level. Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels.



## SC 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.*

### 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

# Great Falls Elementary School [Chester County]

## SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary School
<b>Students (n=393)</b>				
Retention rate	0.3%	Up from 0.0%	1.2%	0.9%
Attendance rate	95.8%	Down from 96.4%	96.0%	96.3%
Served by gifted and talented program	5.6%	N/A	5.0%	7.2%
With disabilities	11.2%	N/A	14.2%	12.4%
Older than usual for grade	3.5%	N/A	2.6%	1.9%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	1.0%	Up from 0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Teachers (n=27)</b>				
Teachers with advanced degrees	74.1%	Down from 76.9%	61.4%	62.5%
Continuing contract teachers	92.6%	Down from 96.2%	83.3%	83.3%
Teachers returning from previous year	89.7%	Down from 91.1%	88.0%	88.3%
Teacher attendance rate	94.1%	Down from 94.4%	94.6%	95.0%
Average teacher salary*	\$50,311	Up 2.2%	\$47,449	\$48,193
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Professional development days/teacher	3.0 days	Down from 9.3 days	11.1 days	11.0 days
<b>School</b>				
Principal's years at school	3.0	Up from 2.0	4.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	19.7 to 1	Down from 20.0 to 1	19.9 to 1	20.1 to 1
Prime instructional time	88.2%	Down from 89.0%	89.5%	90.0%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	Up from 97.6%	100.0%	100.0%
Character development program	Good	Up from Below Average	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$7,172	Down 8.4%	\$7,409	\$7,364
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	69.0%	Down from 69.6%	68.0%	68.0%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	65.0%	Down from 66.0%	65.0%	66.0%
ESEA composite index score	66.3	Down from 84.2	82.1	88.0

\* Length of contract = 185+ days.

\*\* Prior year audited financial data available.

## EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	30	56	25
Percent satisfied with learning environment	83.4%	76.8%	64%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	96.7%	73.7%	68%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	60%	87.7%	60%

\*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

Great Falls Elementary School is a Title I school in rural Chester County in the upper state of South Carolina, situated approximately halfway between Columbia, SC and Charlotte, NC. The percentage of students at Great Falls Elementary who received free or reduced lunch for the 2012-13 school year was 72.3%.

Learning, not teaching continues to be the major focus of Great Falls Elementary school as we continue our journey of becoming a Professional Learning Community. As a professional development school and learning community, the master schedule allows grade level teams to meet each week for a common planning time. This enables teams to plan a more unified instruction and create assessments on a regular basis. It also allows teachers to share best practices and strategies that have proven to be successful, resulting in an increase of student achievement. In addition to common planning time, all teams have a common lunch time to allow time for additional communication.

Our principal provided teams with a collection of templates to help guide their work. The templates consisted of SMART goal and team planning sheets to assist in setting a purpose and goal for our team meetings. The teams create norms together and review them annually to maintain time on task during meetings. Teams create SMART goals to guide instruction and progress, analyze data, and reflect to determine if the goals have been met. A data analysis sheet was provided to determine students' strengths and weaknesses on assessments and to establish a plan for interventions and enrichments. Finally, a team feedback sheet serves as a source to evaluate our team's performance.

Teachers collaborate with interventionists and fine arts teachers to plan intervention strategies. Data results and student performances are shared to determine areas of emphasis for remediation. A plan is developed and implemented to meet students' needs and provide additional support. Students' progresses are monitored and intervention plans are adjusted as necessary. Great Falls Elementary made many accomplishments we were named a Professional Development (PD) School with the Winthrop University NetScope grant program. The partnership between Winthrop and the school is two-fold: to increase student achievement and assist in developing high quality teachers. Great Falls Elementary was named a Microsoft Pathfinder School in 2012. Pathfinder Schools are selected to serve as regional exemplars for integrating innovative teaching and learning into the whole school environment. The 2012 PASS test scores indicated our 3rd grade students scored above the state average in math, reading, and science. This increase in scores included a dramatic 58% rise in science test scores from the previous year. The 2012 PASS test scores indicated our 4th grade students showed gains in all areas tested as compared to their previous 3rd grade 2011 PASS scores. The 5th math and science PASS test scores have steadily increased over the past three years. We attribute this success to the work of collaborative teams within our school and our method of intervention. Our staff is dedicated to building our Professional Learning Community and is confident that scores will continue to rise. Great Falls Elementary earned a "B" grade and met Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under NCLB in 2012. We are stars of excellence..... Determined to shine!

Wendell B. Sumter, Principal  
Nancy Jolly-Smith, SIC Chair

### 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 CSI Continuing School Improvement CA Corrective Action RP Plan to Restructure R Restructure DELAY School Improvement Status HOLD School Improvement Status