

Palmetto Scholars Academy

2415 Avenue F
North Charleston, SC

Grades	6-10 High School	
Enrollment	302 Students	
Principal	Martha B Hale	843 300 4118
Superintendent	Wayne Brazell, Ph. D.	803-734-8322
Board Chair	Don McLaurin	803-603-1441

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2013 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2013	N/A	N/A
2012	N/A	N/A
2011	N/A	N/A
2010	N/A	N/A
2009	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>

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF HIGH SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
9	0	0	0	0

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

High School Assessment Program (HSAP) Exam Passage Rate: Second Year Students

Percent	Our High School			High Schools with Students Like Ours		
	2011	2012	2013	2011	2012	2013
Passed 2 subtests (%)	N/A	N/A	100.0%	86.9%	88.1%	90.0%
Passed 1 subtest (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	8.0%	7.2%	7.4%
Passed no subtests (%)	N/A	N/A	N/A	5.1%	4.7%	3.6%

HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2013

Percent	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours
	N/A	95.7%

Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate

	Our High School		High Schools with Students Like Ours	
	2012*	2013	2012	2013
Number of Students in Four-Year Cohort	N/A	N/A	N/A	350
Number of Graduates in Cohort	N/A	N/A	N/A	300
Rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	86.1%

*Used to calculate current ESEA/Federal Accountability Grade.

Five-Year Graduation Rate

	Our High School		High Schools with Students Like Ours	
	2012	2013	2012	2013
Number of Students in Cohort	N/A	N/A	N/A	355
Number of Graduates in Cohort	N/A	N/A	N/A	308
Rate	N/A	N/A	N/A	87.0%

End of Course Tests

Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our High School	High Schools with Students Like Ours*
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	100.0%	87.9%
English 1	92.9%	83.9%
Biology 1/Applied Biology 2	91.4%	88.0%
US History and the Constitution	96.0%	75.5%
All Tests	93.6%	83.7%

* High Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

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	High Schools with Students Like Ours	Median High School
Students (n=302)				
Retention rate	0.0%	N/A	1.4%	2.9%
Attendance rate	96.7%	N/A	95.3%	95.1%
Served by gifted and talented program	51.7%	N/A	33.8%	17.5%
With disabilities	0.0%	N/A	8.7%	11.9%
Older than usual for grade	0.0%	N/A	4.1%	7.9%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0%	N/R	1.1%	1.1%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	N/R	N/R	34.9%	15.1%
Successful on AP/IB exams	32.0%	N/A	53.0%	51.5%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	N/R	N/R	35.6%	30.6%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	N/A	1.5%	2.3%
Career/technology students in co-curricular organizations	N/A	N/A	0.0%	7.2%
Enrollment in career/technology courses	N/A	N/A	477	418
Students participating in work-based experiences	N/A	N/A	22.8%	14.6%
Career/technology students attaining technical skills	100.0%	N/A	87.8%	84.8%
Career/technology completers placed	N/A	N/A	99.4%	98.3%
Teachers (n=19)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	47.4%	N/A	67.0%	63.4%
Continuing contract teachers	47.4%	N/A	82.4%	78.8%
Teachers returning from previous year	N/A	N/A	88.6%	86.2%
Teacher attendance rate	98.6%	N/R	95.6%	95.2%
Average teacher salary*	\$40,049	I/S	\$49,842	\$48,699
Professional development days/teacher	0.4 days	N/R	8.1 days	9.9 days
School				
Principal's years at school	1.0	N/R	3.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	N/R	N/R	29.4 to 1	26.9 to 1
Prime instructional time	95.3%	N/R	90.4%	89.0%
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$6,208	N/A	\$7,103	\$7,919
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	47.0%	N/A	58.0%	57.0%
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	53.0%	N/A	60.0%	60.0%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	N/R	Excellent	Excellent
SACS accreditation	No	N/R	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	87.3%	N/R	99.1%	97.7%
Character development program	Average	N/R	Good	Good
Modern language program assessment	N/A	N/A	N/A	11.0
Classical language program assessment	N/A	N/A	N/A	15.0

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

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

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Performance By Student Groups

	HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2013		End of Course Tests Passage Rate		On-time Graduation Rate, 2013	
	n	%	t	%	n	%
All Students	N/A	N/A	78	93.6%	N/A	N/A
Gender						
Male	N/A	N/A	44	95.5%	N/A	N/A
Female	N/A	N/A	34	91.2%	N/A	N/A
Racial/Ethnic Group						
White	N/A	N/A	54	94.4%	N/A	N/A
African American	N/A	N/A	18	88.9%	N/A	N/A
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
Disability Status						
Disabled	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Migrant Status						
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
English Proficiency						
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Socio-Economic Status						
Subsidized meals	N/A	N/A	20	90.0%	N/A	N/A

NOTE: n=number of students on which percentage is calculated; t=number of tests taken.

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Report of Principal and School Improvement Council

Palmetto Scholars Academy provides a differentiated program designed to meet the educational needs of intellectually gifted learners, address their distinctive social and emotional needs, promote individual character development and instill a life-long love of learning. Our students engage with leading innovative organizations in higher education, business and science, to empower them to make original and impactful contributions toward the elevation of South Carolina in the areas of education, commerce, arts and science.

Our students come together from all areas of the LowCountry, including Berkeley, Charleston, Colleton, and Dorchester Counties, and represent a diverse population in terms of ethnicity, religion, and socioeconomic status. In order to meet the school’s mission, all students are in honors or advanced courses, and flexible scheduling allows faculty to meet the individual needs of each gifted learner. Visitors to the school would likely see cooperative groupings, discussion, debate, seminars, and inquiry-based learning as they walk the hallways. Most faculty have advanced degrees and all are dedicated to providing research-based, student-centered instruction for gifted learners. The development of our curriculum is facilitated by nationally recognized leaders in the field of gifted education who ensure that the latest research on best practices in gifted education is incorporated at all grade levels.

During the third year of operation, students at Palmetto Scholars Academy made tremendous positive gains, continuing to excel in statewide assessments, being selected as the first school in South Carolina to send a student research experiment to the International Space Station, being selected as a NASA Partner School through the College of Charleston’s NASA Consortium, and having several teachers selected for participation in highly sought after teacher education programs including a social studies teacher who was selected for participation in the Library of Congress’s teacher education program in Washington, DC. Community service requirements have expanded during the 2012-13 school year, and PSA continues to work supporting local charitable events on a regular basis.

The school community, which consists of faculty, staff, students, and supportive parents, is proud of the great accomplishments and successes that Palmetto Scholars Academy has been able to achieve in only three years of operation. An active parent organization, partnered with a long-range strategic plan, ensures a successful vision for our school’s future as South Carolina’s first public charter for gifted education. We are driven by our mission and strive to maintain the highest of standards in order to meet the unique needs of gifted learners.

Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	N/A	73	14
Percent satisfied with learning environment	N/A	65.7%	78.6%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	N/A	67.1%	64.3%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	N/A	90.2%	71.4%

* Only eleventh grade students and their parents were included. For schools without grade eleven, only the highest grade was 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	100.0
Overall Grade Conversion	A

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

Palmetto Scholars 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 Data

	Our District	State
Classes in low poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	11.8%	2.3%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	14.8%	4.9%

	Our School	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	9.0%	0.0%	No

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Two-Year HSAP Trend Data

	School Year	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	School % Proficient or Advanced*
English/Language Arts								
All Students	2012	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2013	26	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Mathematics								
All Students	2012	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	2013	26	100.0	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

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