



## Sandhills Primary School

140 Lewis Rast Road  
Swansea, SC 29160

<b>Grades</b>	1-2 Primary School	
<b>Enrollment</b>	513 Students	
<b>Principal</b>	Donna Goodwin	803-568-1250
<b>Superintendent</b>	Linda G. Lavender	803-568-1000
<b>Board Chair</b>	Chris Pound	803-791-7651

# 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 PRIMARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS\***

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
9	2	0	0	0

\* Ratings are calculated with data available by 11/15/2013. Primary Schools with Students like Ours are primary schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

**Performance Rating Criteria**

Prime instructional time	86.3%
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	23.9 to 1
Teachers with advanced degrees	61.5%
Teachers returning from previous year	N/A
Percent of parents attending conferences	100.0%
Days of professional development devoted exclusively to knowledge and skills working with children less than eight years old	6.9 days

**Types Of Accreditation (More Than One May Apply)**

	Not pursuing accreditation
X	Conducting a self-study
X	South Carolina Department of Education
X	Southern Association of Colleges and School
	American Montessori Society
	National Association for the Education of Young Children

**School Profile**

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Primary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Primary School
<b>Students (n=513)</b>				
First graders who attended full-day kindergarten	98.9%	Up from 98.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Retention rate	0.0%	No Change	1.4%	2.3%
Attendance rate	94.1%	Down from 94.7%	95.4%	95.5%
With disabilities	15.5%	N/A	10.1%	10.4%
Older than usual for grade	0.4%	N/A	0.8%	1.1%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	1.0%	Up from 0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Teachers (n=26)</b>				
Teachers with advanced degrees	61.5%	Up from 58.6%	63.6%	61.3%
Continuing contract teachers	96.2%	Up from 93.1%	86.3%	84.1%
Teachers returning from previous year	N/A	N/A	90.0%	90.0%
Teacher attendance rate	94.3%	Down from 95.0%	94.0%	94.9%
Average teacher salary*	\$48,738	Up 6.2%	\$48,738	\$47,358
Professional development days/teacher	10.2 days	Down from 11.7 days	15.2 days	12.5 days
<b>School</b>				
Principal's years at school	3.0	Down from 11.0	4.0	6.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	23.9 to 1	Up from 22.6 to 1	22.3 to 1	21.3 to 1
Prime instructional time	86.3%	Down from 88.5%	88.4%	89.1%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	No Change	100.0%	100.0%
Character development program	Average	Down from Good	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$7,088	Up 2.9%	\$7,088	\$6,939
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	63.0%	Up from 62.0%	69.0%	69.0%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	60.0%	Up from 53.6%	66.0%	66.0%

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

\*\* Prior year audited financial data are reported.

## Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A–Not Applicable N/AV–Not Available N/C–Not Collected N/R–Not Reported I/S–Insufficient Sample

## Report of Principal and School Improvement Council

Sandhills Primary School, a rural school located in lower Lexington County, serves approximately 550 1st and 2nd graders. We believe that "It's All About Students, Parents and Teachers Learning and Working Together!" Our school environment embraces researched-based practices to provide effective learning environments for each student. During 2012-2013 our district engaged in a systematic review through AdvancEd, an accreditation committee. SPS' School Improvement Council, faculty, staff and parents reviewed all aspects of our operation, and we were awarded accreditation for the next 5 years.

At SPS, parents have a choice of 2 instructional methods: Integrated Literacy model where literacy goals are integrated into science and social studies content, or the Montessori model which emphasizes multi-age classrooms and an individualized learning method. Both models have proven successful, and offer parents a chance to be included in making decisions regarding the method that provides the best 'fit' for their child.

Teachers are engaged in a continuous cycle of curriculum analysis and improvement as they develop unit plans based on the Common Core State Standards. These standards are rigorous and will provide our students the opportunity to develop skills of analysis, become 'deep thinkers', and improve writing skills. A goal of our faculty is to provide a 'high progress literacy classroom' experience for every child.

During primary school, students are 'learning to read'. We have established student engagement in reading and writing as our priority. Teachers are implementing a structured system that encourages students to build motivation and stamina in reading and writing. Many students increased their engagement to 60-90 minutes! We are excited to see progress with all our students!

Our challenge is to continue our efforts to increase students' academic gains. Next year we will have the support of a literacy coach to assist our teachers in the implementation of research-based literacy strategies. Our school team will continue our focus on providing targeted assistance strategies for individual students.

Research data indicates that students lose up to 3-5 reading levels over the summer. In May, our students had the exciting opportunity to select 8 books for their personal home libraries. It is our hope that our students will read these books and many more over the summer to maintain or increase their reading levels while preventing summer reading loss.

Thank you for your support throughout the year as we work together for student success!

Andrea Harrelson, SPS School Improvement Council Chairperson  
Donna Goodwin, SPS Principal, (803) 568-1250

## Evaluations by Teachers

	Teachers
Number of surveys returned	18
Percent satisfied with learning environment	88.9%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	94.4%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	83.4%

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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.

<b>Overall Weighted Points Total</b>	<b>64.9</b>
<b>Overall Grade Conversion</b>	<b>D</b>

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**

Sandhills Primary 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**

	<b>Our District</b>	<b>State</b>
Classes in low poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	N/A	2.3%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	4.9%

	<b>Our School</b>	<b>State Objective</b>	<b>Met State Objective</b>
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	0.0%	Yes
Student attendance rate	94.1%	94.0%*	Yes

\* Or greater than last year

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