

## SC Connections Academy

220 Stoneridge Drive, Suite 403  
Columbia, SC 29210

<b>Grades</b>	K-12 Middle School	
<b>Enrollment</b>	3,317 Students	
<b>Principal</b>	Amanda Ebel	803-212-4712
<b>Superintendent</b>	Wayne Brazell, Ph. D.	803-734-8322
<b>Board Chair</b>	Don McLaurin	803-603-1441

# THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2014 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

## RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
<b>2014</b>	<b>Average</b>	<b>Average</b>
2013	Average	Average
2012	Average	Average
2011	Average	Average
2010	Average	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 SC PASS Records Matched for Purpose of Computing Growth Rating**

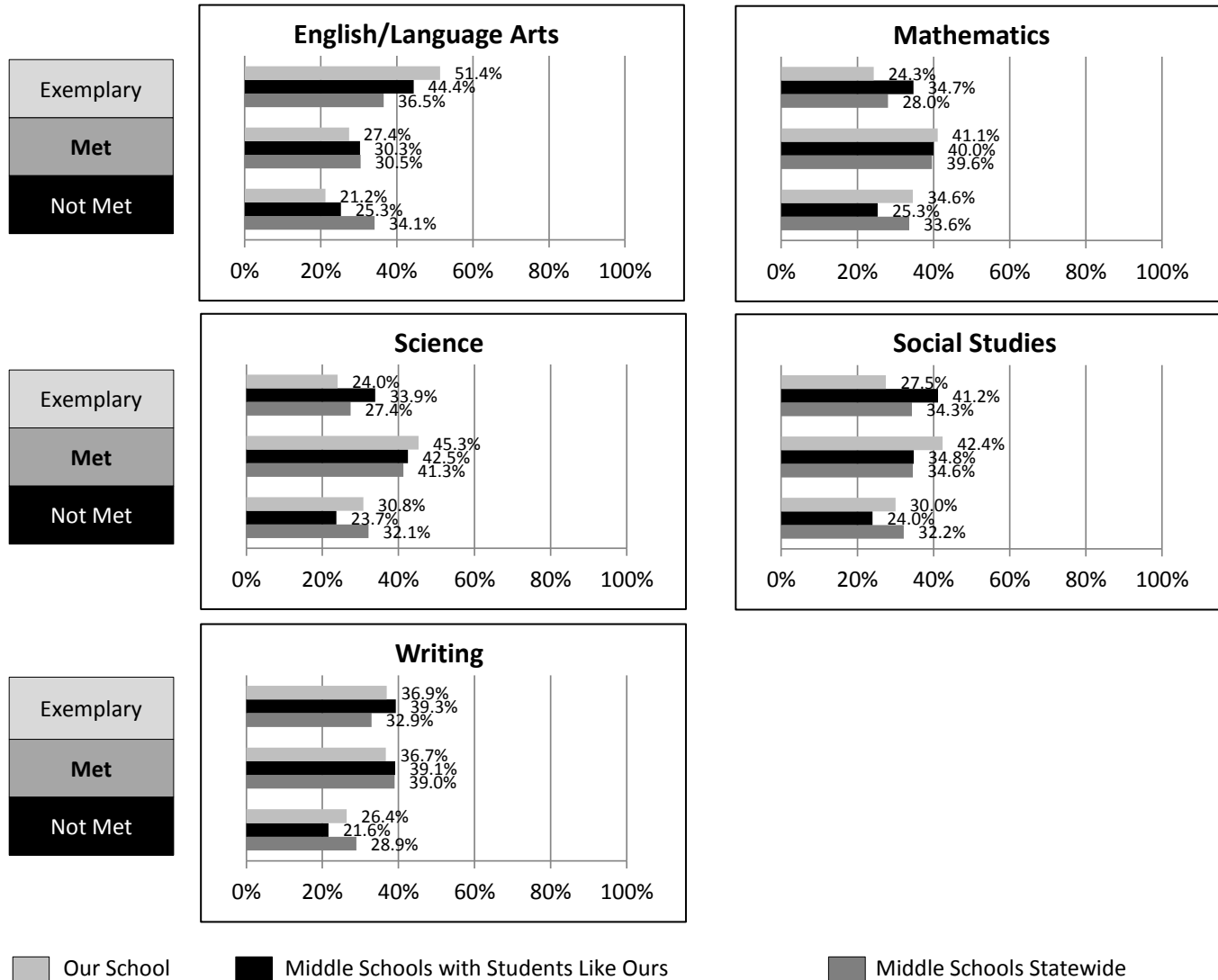
Percent of students tested in 2013-14 whose 2012-13 test scores were located 87.4%

**ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS\***

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
14	16	9	1	0

\* Ratings are calculated with data available by 04/27/2015.

**South Carolina Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SC 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 student demonstrated exemplary performance in meeting the grade level standard.
Met	"Met" means 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

**School Profile**

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
<b>Students (n = 3,317)</b>				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	4.2%	Down from 13.4%	31.5%	26.0%
Retention Rate	3.1%	Down from 3.4%	0.4%	0.6%
Attendance Rate	99.9%	Up from 96.7%	96.5%	96.2%
Served by gifted and talented program	9.5%	Up from 7.5%	22.3%	19.4%
With disabilities	8.9%	Down from 9.2%	11.8%	12.8%
Older than usual for grade	6.5%	Down from 7.6%	3.3%	4.5%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No change	0.7%	0.4%
Annual dropout rate	0.1%	No change	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Teachers (n = 87)</b>				
Teachers with advanced degrees	57.5%	Down from 57.7%	60.0%	61.3%
Continuing contract teachers	89.7%	Up from 87.2%	76.1%	75.9%
Teachers returning from previous year	85.8%	Down from 87.2%	86.9%	85.4%
Teacher attendance rate	94.6%	Up from 94.4%	95.5%	95.2%
Average teacher salary*	\$36,782	Up 2.1%	\$47,151	\$47,081
Professional development days/teacher	14.6 days	Up from 14.2 days	12.2 days	10.6 days
<b>School</b>				
Principal's years at school	1.0	Down from 4.0	3.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	12.7 to 1	N/A	22.4 to 1	21.5 to 1
Prime instructional time	94.4%	Up from 90.5%	90.8%	90.1%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	98.1%	Down from 100.0%	99.6%	99.0%
Character development program	Good	No change	Good	Good
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$5,821	Up 1.6%	\$6,943	\$7,616
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	85.2%	Down from 88.0%	63.2%	62.0%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	43.5%	Up from 43.0%	62.4%	61.3%

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

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

**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%	98.0%
English 1	94.7%	97.7%
Biology 1	N/A	N/A
US History and the Constitution	N/A	0.0%
All Subjects	91.6%	97.8%

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**

South Carolina Connections Academy (SCCA) is an AdvancED accredited, public virtual charter school that opened during the 2008-2009 school year and is authorized by 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 is aligned to Common Core standards and 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, in person meetings and LiveLesson sessions. Student work is regularly 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 needed 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 or 504 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 a variety of foreign language courses, Honors and Advanced Placement courses and electives in the career clusters of Technology, Health and Business. Some of our students are dual enrolled in local colleges or universities. Our graduation requirements are more rigorous than the state mandates. Notable college acceptances for SCCA students include: Wellesley College, Vassar College, Duke University, Penn State University, UCLA, Furman University, University of South Carolina and Clemson University.

☐

In an effort to create a sense of community, field trips and face-to-face learning experiences are held statewide throughout the school year. These opportunities allow students, parents, and teachers to interact and socialize. Over 100 opportunities were held during the 2013-2014 school year including museum, zoo and aquarium tours, environmental awareness activities, an arts festival featuring student work and live performances, academic hands on activities, a field day and both Kindergarten graduation as well as a 12th grade graduation ceremony. Our dedicated faculty and staff continue to provide a personalized education to all students, helping them to master the knowledge and problem solving skills needed to achieve their college and career goals.

☐

Amanda Ebel, SCCA Executive Director

Tracey Williams, SIC Chair

**Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents**

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	78	58	158
Percent satisfied with learning environment	98.7%	91.3%	95.5%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	87.2%	94.3%	74.2%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	94.9%	94.8%	94.3%

\* 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 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>78.7</b>
<b>Overall Grade Conversion</b>	<b>C</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 states' expectations.

**Accountability Indicator (Title I Schools)**

SC Connections Academy 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 school 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.
X	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	11	3.2%	
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	24.6	7.3%	
	<b>Our School</b>	<b>State Objective</b>	<b>Met State Objective</b>
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	2.9%	0.0%	No
Student attendance rate	99.9%	94.0%*	Yes
			<b>State</b>
Professional qualifications of all elementary and secondary teachers in the State (Advanced Degrees)			61.9%
Percentage of all elementary and secondary teachers in the State with emergency or provisional credentials			0.0%

\* Or greater than last year

Abbreviations for Missing Data

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SC PASS Performance By Group - ESEA/Federal Accountability

Subgroups	ELA Mean	Math Mean	Science Mean	Social Studies Mean*	ELA % Tested	Math % Tested	Science % Tested
<b>Grades 6-8</b>							
All Students	643.1	626.2	627.9	626.8	99.6	99.6	99.7
Male	639.6	630.3	632.3	631.7	99.6	99.6	100.0
Female	646.3	622.4	623.8	621.9	99.6	99.6	99.4
White	645.1	629.4	631.2	629.8	100.0	100.0	99.8
African American	627.4	604.7	609.4	613.8	98.3	98.3	100.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	647.5	623.3	N/A	610.9	96.3	96.3	96.8
American Indian/Alaskan Native	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
With Disabilities	590.7	587.8	589.6	588.5	100.0	100.0	98.3
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Subsidized Meals	629.0	612.2	615.4	616.1	99.3	99.3	99.6
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	632.0	632.0	632.0	632.0	95.0	95.0	95.0

\* Social Studies used as "Other Academic Indicator" for elementary and middle schools.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A-Not Applicable

N/AV-Not Available

N/C-Not Collected

N/R-Not Reported

I/S-Insufficient Sample

Two Year Elementary and Middle School Grades Trend Data

2013	Grade	SCPASS ELA			SCPASS Math		
		N	Mean	% Tested	N	Mean	% Tested
	3	143	647.9	97.9	143	609.3	98.6
4	165	646.8	98.2	165	633.3	97.6	
5	215	641.1	99.1	215	619.1	99.1	
6	286	643.9	99.7	286	630.0	99.7	
7	341	638.4	99.1	341	629.5	99.1	
8	388	637.7	98.7	388	616.7	98.7	
		SCPASS Science			SCPASS Social Studies*/History		
		N	Mean	% Tested	N	Mean	% Tested
3	67	611.5	100.0	76	613.2	97.4	
4	165	625.5	98.2	165	639.3	97.6	
5	106	617.0	100.0	109	632.6	97.3	
6	144	618.3	100.0	142	639.8	99.3	
7	341	622.1	99.1	341	611.1	99.1	
8	194	614.4	99.5	191	632.7	99.0	

2014	Grade	SCPASS ELA			SCPASS Math		
		N	Mean	% Tested	N	Mean	% Tested
	3	124	644.8	96.9	124	618.0	96.9
4	175	648.1	100.0	175	632.7	100.0	
5	197	647.6	100.0	197	633.2	100.0	
6	279	643.1	98.9	279	623.0	98.9	
7	309	646.8	99.7	309	639.8	99.7	
8	372	640.0	100.0	372	617.6	100.0	
		SCPASS Science			SCPASS Social Studies*/History		
		N	Mean	% Tested	N	Mean	% Tested
3	66	615.1	100.0	58	613.3	95.1	
4	175	625.7	100.0	173	633.7	98.9	
5	95	625.1	100.0	102	624.5	100.0	
6	140	611.7	100.0	139	624.9	99.3	
7	309	635.7	99.7	309	622.2	99.7	
8	190	627.6	99.5	181	635.5	100.0	

\* Social Studies used as "Other Academic Indicator" for elementary and middle schools.

NOTE: Results include the SC-ALT test.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A-Not Applicable

N/AV-Not Available

N/C-Not Collected

N/R-Not Reported

I/S-Insufficient Sample

**Performance by Group - ESEA/Federal Accountability (District)** 4/27/2015 4701003

Subgroups	ELA Mean	Math Mean	Science Mean	Soc Studies*/ History Mean	ELA % Tested	Math % Tested	Science % Tested	Graduation Rate
<b>Grades 3 - 5</b>								
All Students	644.4	631.7	622.0	637.6	98.3	99.3	99.6	N/A
Male	638.8	630.3	620.3	639.0	98.0	99.3	99.6	N/A
Female	650.5	633.2	624.0	636.2	98.5	99.4	99.5	N/A
White	653.5	640.9	631.4	646.8	98.5	99.4	99.7	N/A
African American	617.2	602.3	591.8	612.0	97.8	99.3	98.9	N/A
Asian/Pacific Islander	670.1	683.8	660.2	661.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A
Hispanic	635.8	616.3	613.2	627.3	96.8	98.1	100.0	N/A
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
With Disabilities	607.1	587.4	582.0	604.3	90.8	99.2	99.4	N/A
Limited English Proficient	621.4	617.0	607.7	618.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A
Subsidized Meals	630.1	613.8	605.2	620.2	98.1	99.4	99.7	N/A
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	640.0	640.0	640.0	640.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	N/A
<b>Grades 6 - 8</b>								
All Students	636.0	627.6	625.6	625.9	99.4	99.3	99.5	N/A
Male	630.3	628.5	628.6	629.6	99.1	99.1	99.5	N/A
Female	641.7	626.7	622.6	622.2	99.6	99.5	99.5	N/A
White	640.3	632.1	630.4	630.0	99.4	99.3	99.5	N/A
African American	618.5	609.9	606.6	613.6	99.3	99.3	99.3	N/A
Asian/Pacific Islander	677.8	667.8	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	635.0	623.5	624.0	614.0	98.9	98.9	99.2	N/A
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0	N/A	N/A
With Disabilities	581.5	584.2	581.9	587.0	99.7	99.7	99.6	N/A
Limited English Proficient	620.4	608.2	608.4	608.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A
Subsidized Meals	621.0	612.8	610.8	611.6	99.2	99.2	99.3	N/A
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	632.0	632.0	632.0	632.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	N/A
<b>Grades 9 - 12</b>								
All Students	228.0	215.4	81.4	70.5	96.3	95.9	100.0	38.1
Male	223.1	215.6	81.7	72.3	95.8	95.3	100.0	33.8
Female	231.6	215.1	81.1	69.4	96.6	96.4	100.0	41.1
White	229.4	217.3	82.2	71.1	96.1	95.8	100.0	37.7
African American	220.7	204.5	76.6	67.1	96.3	95.5	100.0	41.3
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	35.3
Hispanic	229.1	214.8	80.9	72.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	38.8
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	21.4
With Disabilities	206.9	193.2	69.4	64.5	93.4	93.4	100.0	25.2
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	27.3
Subsidized Meals	223.6	209.8	79.0	68.6	95.5	94.9	100.0	28.6
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	229.0	226.0	78.0	75.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	75.1

\* Social Studies used as "Other Academic Indicator" for elementary and middle schools.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A-Not Applicable

N/AV-Not Available

N/C-Not Collected

N/R-Not Reported

I/S-Insufficient Sample

**Performance by Group - ESEA/Federal Accountability (State)** 4/27/2015 4701003

Subgroups	ELA Mean	Math Mean	Science Mean	Soc Studies* / History Mean	ELA % Tested	Math % Tested	Science % Tested	Graduation Rate
<b>Grades 3 - 5</b>								
All Students	643.8	644.3	626.4	645.0	99.7	99.8	99.8	N/A
Male	638.9	643.9	627.0	646.5	99.7	99.8	99.8	N/A
Female	649.0	644.6	625.8	643.4	99.8	99.9	99.8	N/A
White	659.5	662.7	644.4	659.5	99.8	99.9	99.8	N/A
African American	622.3	617.3	601.2	624.1	99.7	99.8	99.7	N/A
Asian/Pacific Islander	669.9	686.6	655.9	673.4	99.9	100.0	99.8	N/A
Hispanic	631.7	634.6	614.5	636.5	99.7	99.9	99.9	N/A
American Indian/Alaskan	642.1	640.4	627.1	641.8	99.7	99.9	99.5	N/A
With Disabilities	599.3	596.5	587.6	609.2	98.9	99.5	99.5	N/A
Limited English Proficient	631.2	638.6	615.0	638.1	99.7	99.9	99.9	N/A
Subsidized Meals	627.7	625.2	609.4	628.7	99.7	99.8	99.7	N/A
Migrant	608.2	615.1	590.4	623.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	N/A
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	640.0	640.0	640.0	640.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	N/A
<b>Grades 6 - 8</b>								
All Students	627.8	632.2	634.7	637.4	99.7	99.7	99.7	N/A
Male	620.6	630.1	634.4	639.8	99.7	99.7	99.6	N/A
Female	635.4	634.3	635.0	634.9	99.8	99.8	99.7	N/A
White	644.3	647.7	652.3	652.3	99.8	99.8	99.7	N/A
African American	604.3	608.5	608.9	615.2	99.7	99.7	99.6	N/A
Asian/Pacific Islander	658.5	680.2	673.0	677.3	99.9	99.9	99.9	N/A
Hispanic	617.3	625.4	625.0	630.5	99.7	99.7	99.7	N/A
American Indian/Alaskan	629.4	631.2	637.2	638.3	99.9	99.8	99.7	N/A
With Disabilities	574.5	584.3	584.9	592.8	99.4	99.4	99.2	N/A
Limited English Proficient	612.5	625.8	622.5	629.8	99.6	99.7	99.8	N/A
Subsidized Meals	610.0	614.6	616.3	619.9	99.7	99.7	99.6	N/A
Migrant	586.4	606.8	600.8	607.7	98.2	98.2	100.0	N/A
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	632.0	632.0	632.0	632.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	N/A
<b>Grades 9 - 12</b>								
All Students	229.3	222.6	81.8	74.9	98.7	98.7	100.0	80.0
Male	225.6	222.4	81.8	75.9	98.3	98.3	100.0	75.7
Female	233.2	222.9	81.9	74.0	99.2	99.1	100.0	84.5
White	235.9	230.8	86.1	78.1	99.0	98.9	100.0	82.8
African American	219.6	209.6	75.2	69.9	98.3	98.3	100.0	76.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	240.2	245.8	89.4	80.3	99.3	99.3	100.0	88.0
Hispanic	225.1	219.4	79.5	73.5	98.9	99.0	100.0	76.9
American Indian/Alaskan	228.8	220.3	81.9	77.2	98.9	99.3	100.0	74.3
With Disabilities	204.3	196.5	68.4	66.2	96.6	96.5	100.0	43.2
Limited English Proficient	218.0	214.7	76.6	71.3	99.3	99.3	100.0	73.4
Subsidized Meals	221.1	212.6	76.8	70.8	98.3	98.2	100.0	72.5
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	61.5
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	229.0	226.0	78.0	75.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	75.1

\* Social Studies used as "Other Academic Indicator" for elementary and middle schools.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A-Not Applicable

N/AV-Not Available

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N/R-Not Reported

I/S-Insufficient Sample

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



Key	
NSLP	National school lunch program
SD	Student with disabilities
ELL	English language learner
NAEP	National Association of Education Progress

	SD Participation Rate	ELL Participation Rate
Reading, Grade 4	89.0%	96.0%
Reading, Grade 8	85.0%	96.0%
Mathematics, Grade 4	93.0%	99.0%
Mathematics, Grade 8	90.0%	95.0%

	Our School
Number of recently arrived ELL students exempted from ELA in state assessments	0

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