

## Aiken County Public Schools

1000 Brookhaven Dr.

Aiken, SC 29803



# South Carolina State Report Card

State and federal laws require public schools to release report cards to the public each year. This year, the report card has been updated to reflect changes in reporting directed by the SC Education Oversight Committee. Schools will not be rated for state accountability purposes until Fall 2017 when the state will transition to a single accountability system. The following reports student performance in school year 2014-15.

**Grades:** PK-12 District  
**Enrollment:** 24,535 students  
**District Phone:** 803-641-2428  
**District Website:** <http://acps.schoolfusion.us/>

**Superintendent:** Dr. Elizabeth Everitt  
**Board Chair:** Mrs. Rosemary B. English



### Profile of the SC Graduate

#### World Class Knowledge

- Rigorous standards in language arts and math for career and college readiness
- Multiple languages, science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), arts and social sciences\*

#### World Class Skills

- Creativity and innovation
- Critical thinking and problem solving
- Collaboration and teamwork
- Communication, information, media and technology
- Knowing how to learn

#### Life and Career Characteristics

- Integrity
- Self-direction
- Global perspective
- Perseverance
- Work ethic
- Interpersonal skills

### WORLD CLASS SKILLS & LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

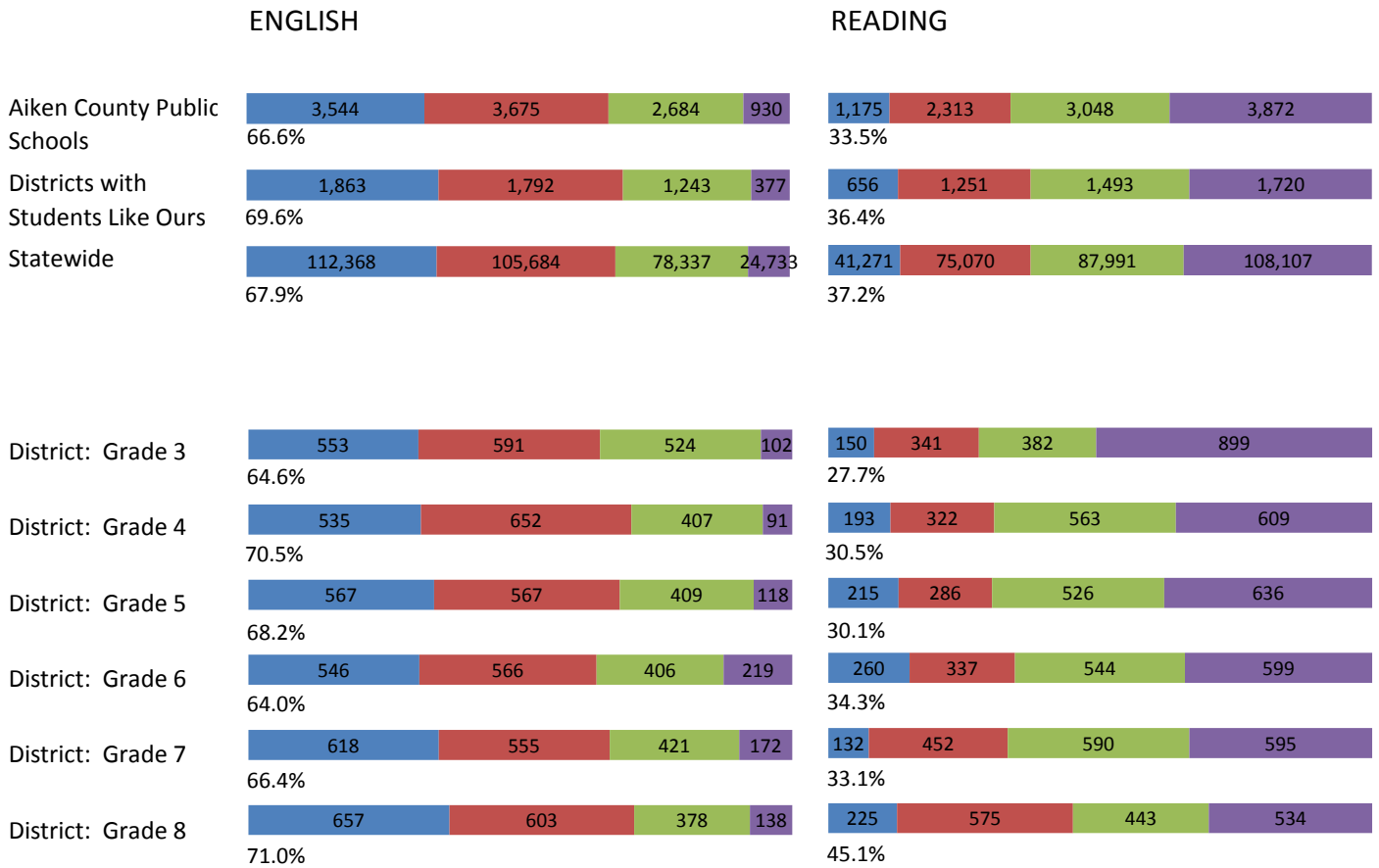
*Our district is helping all students develop the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the Graduate by ...*

Our district is helping all students develop the world class skills and life and career characteristics of the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate by maintaining an emphasis on reading achievement, focusing on college and career ready standards, and ensuring that teachers and other stakeholders continually play a vital role in our collaborative approach to curriculum development. In Aiken County Public Schools, we value the collective knowledge, expertise, and experience of our staff. Through Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) we model world class skills and characteristics while analyzing data, designing instruction, and planning for intervention. At every level, we provide students with opportunities to collaborate, think critically and creatively, and communicate in a variety of ways and to multiple audiences. These opportunities are given in the context of rigorous instruction designed to help all students achieve at high levels while practicing perseverance and developing interpersonal skills. Working closely with our local colleges, we are preparing students for post high school success by increasing numbers in dual-enrollment and concurrent enrollment courses. Successful partnerships include Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) institutes and science standards institutes with Ruth Patrick Science Education Center; Professional Development Schools with USC Aiken; Pre-engineering Academy with Aiken Technical College; the flagship apprentice program with MTU, and Young Entrepreneurs Academy with the Greater Aiken Chamber of Commerce. New and exciting partnerships include Education and Employment (E2) Promise with Aiken County United Way and our Twenty-first Century Learning Environments with Microsoft. All of these endeavors provide students with opportunities to gain the world class knowledge, characteristics and skills to be successful at each level and after leaving our schools. Initiatives designed to enrich the instructional experience for all students and target the specific needs of struggling students include, Reading Recovery in elementary schools, STEM emphasis and Making Middle Grades Work in middle schools, and High Schools that Work in our high schools. Teachers at all levels design formative assessment to identify individual and group needs and use PLCs to determine and implement strategies to address those needs. With the shared vision of academic success, our communities and Aiken County Public Schools will surpass previous goals and set the achievement bar even higher during the 2015-16 school year.

\* 21st Century core courses in Social Sciences include History, Geography, Economics, Government and Civics.

**KNOWLEDGE**

The ACT Aspire assessment was given to students in grades 3-8 in Spring 2015. Students were assessed in the subject areas of Reading, English, Mathematics and Writing



Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A-Not Applicable

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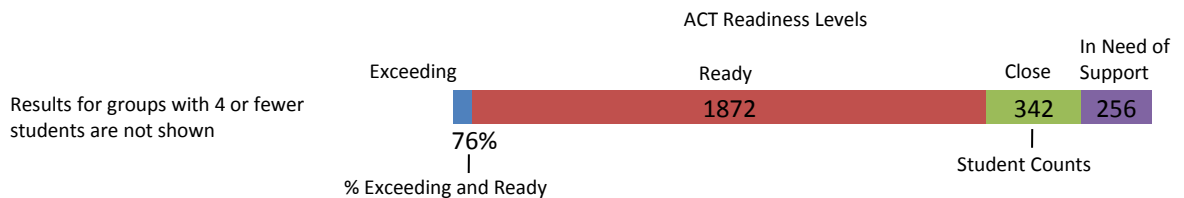
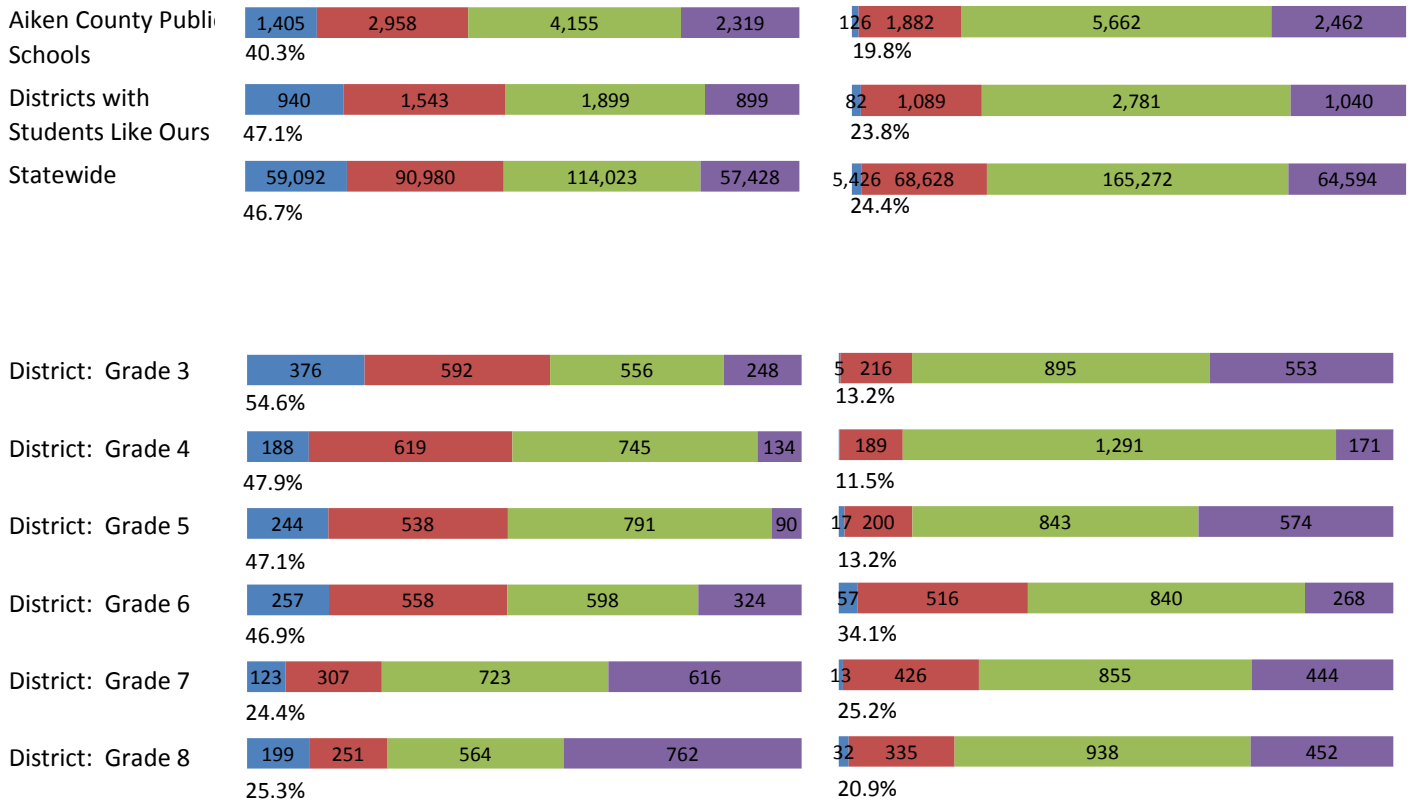
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**KNOWLEDGE**

**MATHEMATICS**

**WRITING**



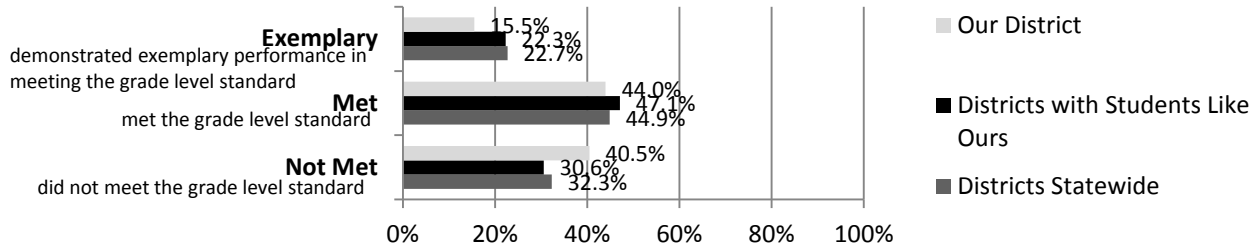
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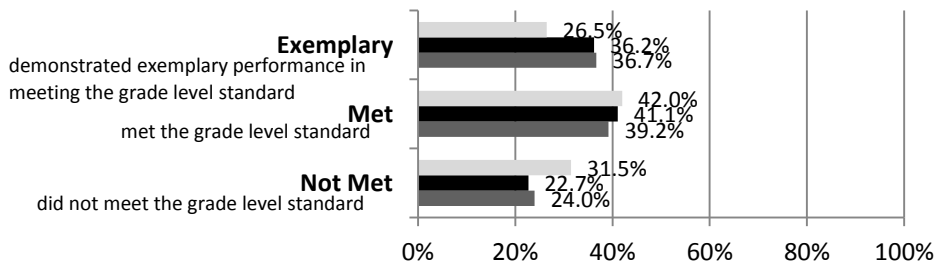
**KNOWLEDGE**

The SC Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SCPASS) was given to students in grades 4 - 8 in Spring 2015. Students were assessed in the subject areas of Science and Social Studies.

**Science**



**Social Studies**



**Science SCPASS**

Our District: Percent Met and Above for each grade level

4th grade	5th grade	6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
65.5	60.7	55.2	58.4	58.8

**Social Studies SCPASS**

Our District: Percent Met and Above for each grade level

4th grade	5th grade	6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
84.2	64.2	70.4	55.3	69.3

Note: Results include SC-Alt assessment results.

Exemplary	"Exemplary": student demonstrated exemplary performance in meeting the grade level standard.
Met	"Met": student met the grade level standard.
Not Met	"Not Met": student did not meet the grade level standard.

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**KNOWLEDGE**

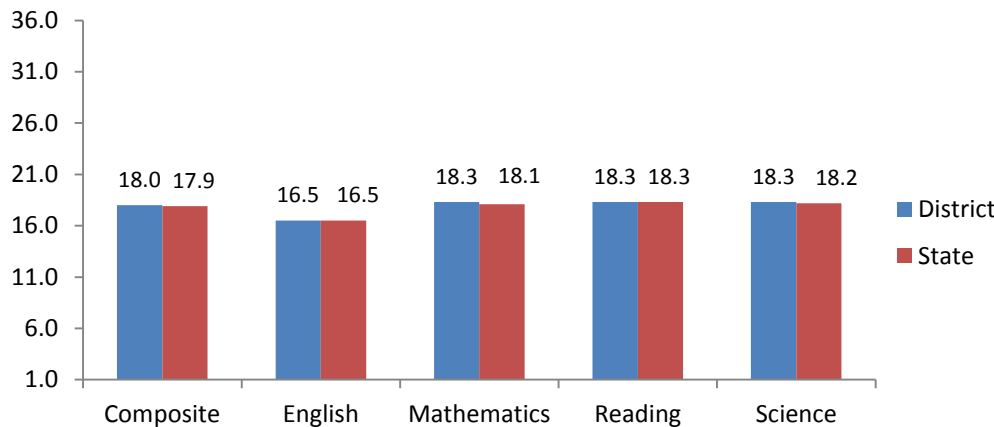
**End of Course Tests**

Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our District	Districts with Students Like Ours	State
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	89.6	86.7	85.7
English 1	78.4	77.0	75.1
Biology 1	80.9	82.0	77.8
US History and the Constitution	72.2	69.9	69.1
All Subjects	80.5	79.1	77.3

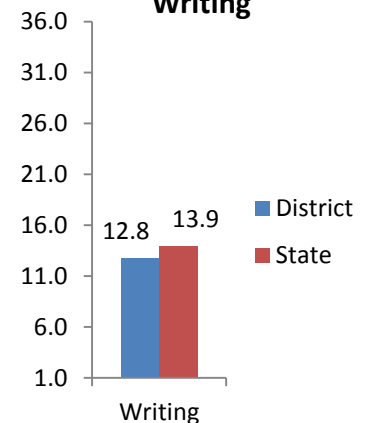
Districts with Students Like Ours are districts with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for the district.

The ACT, a college readiness assessment, was given to every South Carolina 11th grader in 2015 with the exception of those eligible for alternate assessments. The ACT scores range from 0 to 36. The district and state averages are included for comparison. State averages for ACT data are based on regular public schools and do not include private schools in the state.

**Average ACT Score Achieved by Students: English, Math, Reading, Science, Composite of all four tests, 2015**



**Average ACT Score Achieved by Students: Writing**



**Percent of Students in District Meeting ACT College-Ready Benchmarks, 2015**

English Benchmark Score: 18	Math Benchmark Score: 22	Reading Benchmark Score: 22	Science Benchmark Score: 23	All 4 Subjects
39.5	23.3	26	18	10.9

ACT benchmarks are scores on the ACT subject-area tests that represent the level of achievement required for students to have a 50% chance of obtaining a B or higher or about a 75% chance of obtaining a C or higher in corresponding credit-bearing first-year college courses.

The ACT is a registered trademark of ACT, Inc.

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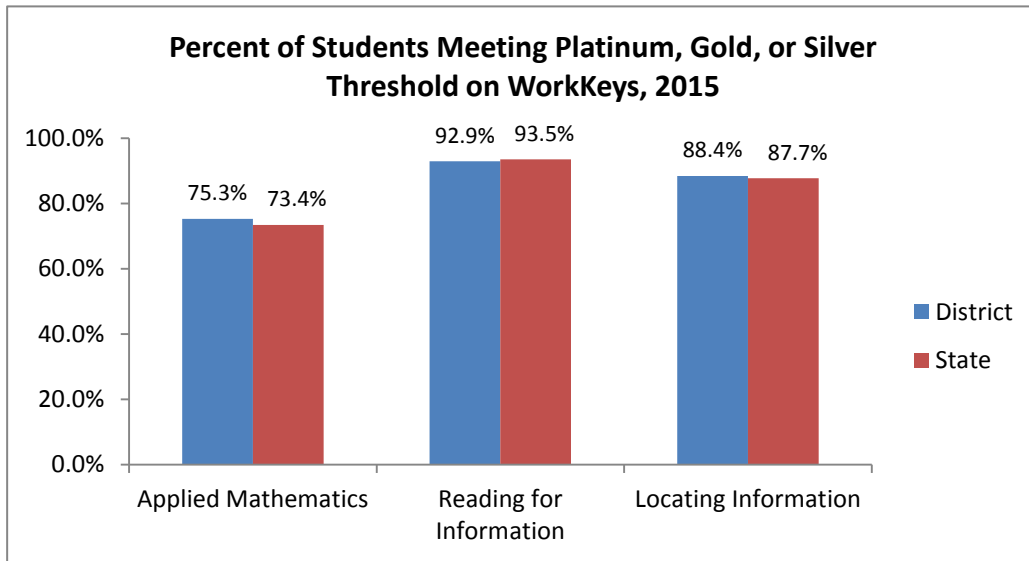
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**KNOWLEDGE**

ACT WorkKeys is a job skills assessment system measuring "real world" skills that employers believe are critical in the workplace. The assessment is given to every South Carolina 11th grader with the exception of those eligible for alternative assessments. The assessment consists of three subtests: Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Locating Information. Students can earn certificates at the Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze level on WorkKeys assessments.



District SAT Performance				
Percent of Students Tested	Average Critical Reading Score	Average Math Score	Average Writing Score	Average Composite Score
58.4	486	487	460	1433

The highest composite score on the SAT is a 2400. For each of the three sections of the test, the highest score is 800.

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**OUTCOMES**

State Graduation Rate	
Four-Year	Five-Year
80.3	82.0

District Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate			
2015	2014	2013	2012
85.2	82.7	80.0	75.6

District Five-Year Cohort Graduation Rate			
2015	2014	2013	2012
85.4	82.7	79.4	76.4

Percentage of Seniors Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	
District	State
44.2	42.2

Percentage of Students from 2014 Graduating Class Enrolled in a two- or four-year college or technical college pursuing an associates degree, certificate, or diploma in Fall 2014	
District	State
75.9	70.3

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**OPPORTUNITIES****For students to meet the profile of the SC Graduate**

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with students like ours
<b>Students (n = 24,535)</b>			
Percent of students participating in Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF; homeless, foster, or migrant students (poverty index)	67.9	Down from 73.0%	N/A
Attendance Rate	94.8	Down from 96.1%	95.4
With disabilities	9.9	Down from 10.0%	12.3
Out of school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.6	No change	0.7
Percentage of students served by gifted and talented programs	13.6	Down from 14.0%	16.7
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	22.6	Down from 24.9%	22.6
Successful in AP/IB programs	53.0	Up from 50.8%	55.3
Career/tech students in co-curricular organizations	3.1	N/A	3.1
Enrollment in career/technology courses	N/A	N/A	-18.0
Students participating in work-based experiences	6.5	N/A	4.7
Number of seniors who have completed FAFSA forms	900	N/A	459
Percentage of seniors completing college applications	N/A	N/A	90.6
Number of students in dual enrollment courses	131	Down from 132	175
Success rate of students in dual enrollment courses	98.4	N/A	98.0
Annual dropout rate	2.8	Up from 2.5%	2.2
Dropout recovery rate	4.3	N/A	6.0
Percentage of students retained	1.5	Down from 1.9%	1.8
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	699	Down from 740	104
Completed adult education GED or diploma program	56	Down from 131	22
<b>Teachers (n = 1,550)</b>			
Percentage of teachers with advanced degrees	56.8	Down from 57.3%	62.8
Percentage of teachers on continuing contract	82.8	Up from 79.7%	82.8
Teachers returning from previous year	90.7	Down from 91.8%	90.8
Teacher attendance rate	94.9	Down from 95.4%	95.1
Average teacher salary*	\$49,118	Up 0.4%	\$49,059
Professional development days / teacher	21.7 days	Up from 11.1 days	N/AV
District-issued technology devices per teacher	N/A	N/C	N/A
Percentage of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	2.5	Up from 1.7%	1.9
Percentage of teacher vacancies for more than 9 weeks	0.4	N/A	0.5

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**OPPORTUNITIES**

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with students like ours
<b>District</b>			
Superintendent's years at district	8.0	Up from 7.0	4.5
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	24.4 to 1	Up from 22.8 to 1	23.2 to 1
Prime instructional time	89.4	Down from 90.4%	89.4
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No change	Excellent
Opportunities in foreign languages	Excellent	N/A	Excellent
Number of schools with AdvancEd (SACS) accreditation	39	No change	N/A
Parents attending conferences	100.0	No change	99.9
Bandwidth capacity per student	<25 Mbps	N/C	N/A
Number of schools with classroom wireless access	35.0	N/C	N/A
Do any schools plan to implement one-to-one computing	Yes	N/C	N/A
District-issued learning devices per student	N/A	N/C	N/A
Do any schools offer online or blended (50% online) courses	No	N/C	N/A
Dual enrollment courses offered	25	N/A	23
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$8,133	Down 1.3%	\$9,154
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	55.4	Up from 55.3%	54.8
Percent of expenditures for teachers' salaries**	59.2	Down from 59.5%	57.0
Average administrator salary	\$77,928	Up 1.6%	\$79,430

\* Includes current year teachers contracted for 190 days or more.

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

**State Ratings History of District**

Year	Absolute Rating	Growth Rating
2014	Excellent	Good
2013	Excellent	Good
2012	Average	Good

Based on state law, districts will not be rated for state accountability purposes until Fall 2017.

**Additional Resources**

SC State Content Standards  
[Family-Friendly Guides to the SC Content Standards](#)  
[2014-15 Accountability Manual](#)  
[Report Card Data Files](#)  
[ESEA Data Files](#)

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