

South Carolina Connections Academy

220 Stoneridge Dr.
Columbia, SC 29210



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:	K-12 Middle	Principal:	Amanda Ebel
Enrollment:	3,457 students	Superintendent:	Wayne Brazell, Ph.D.
School Phone:	803-212-4712	Board Chair:	Warren Engle
School Website:	http://www.connectionsacademy.com/south-carolina-virtual-school		



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

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

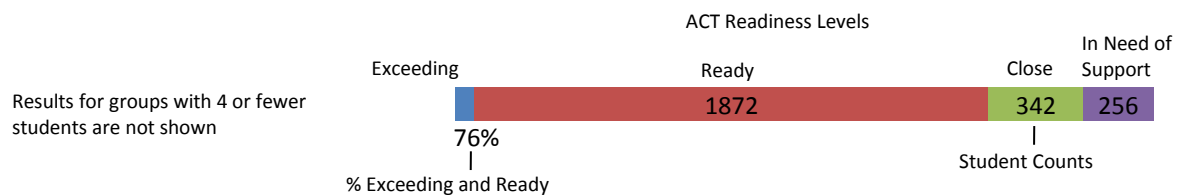
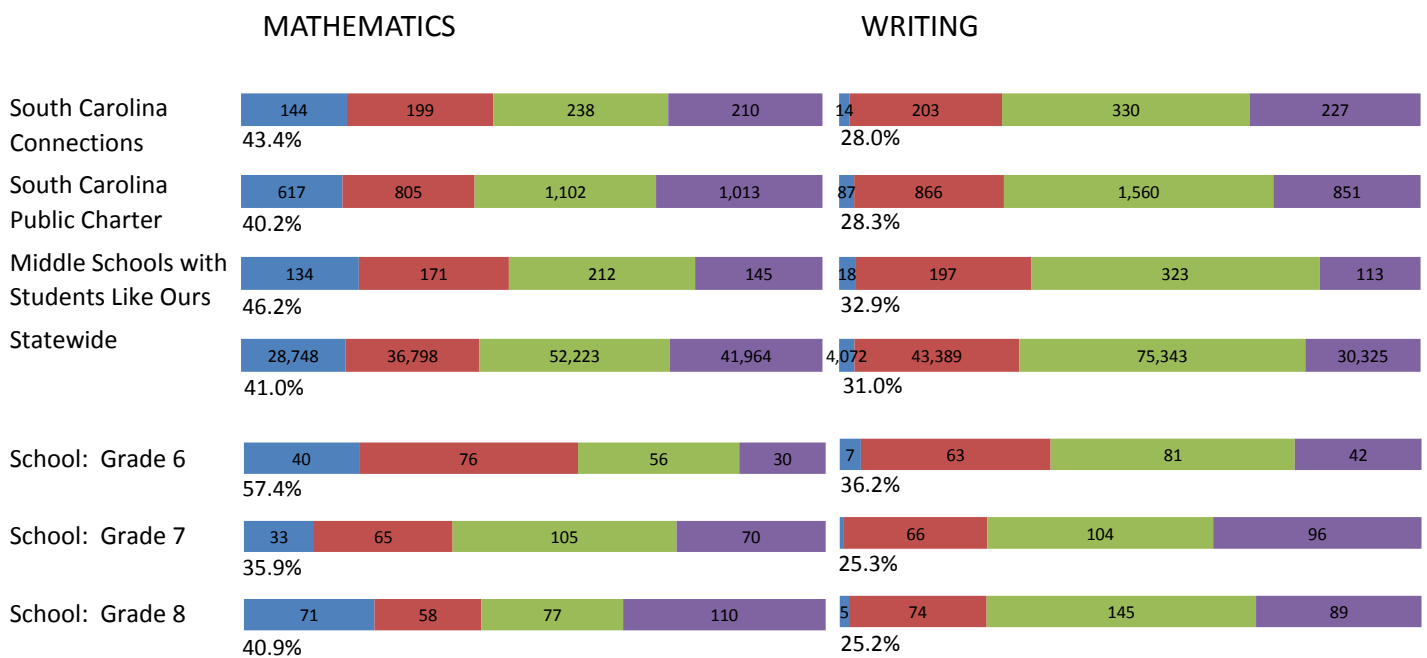
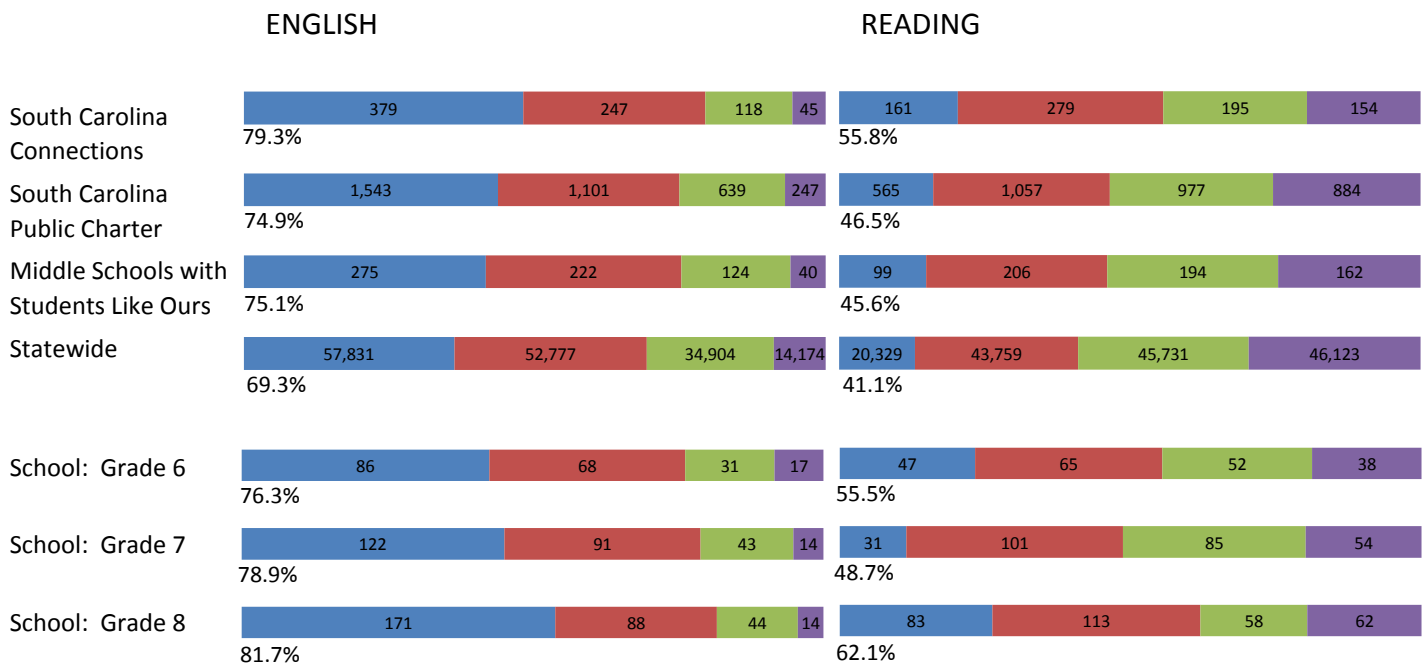
WORLD CLASS SKILLS & LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

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

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 the new South Carolina standards for ELA and Math 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 with an internet connection. This unique system sets us apart from all other virtual charter schools. SCCA offers accelerated 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. Students with 504 plans receive accommodations in the general education setting. 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 several career clusters. 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, Duke University, UCLA, Furman University, University of South Carolina and Clemson University. To create a sense of community, field trips and face-to-face learning experiences are held statewide throughout the school year. Over 125 opportunities were held during the 2014-2015 school year including museum, zoo and aquarium tours, a Geography and multiplication bee, college tours, a student arts showcase, hands on academic activities, a field day and both a 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 Jennifer Bailey, SIC Chair

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

N/AV-Not Available

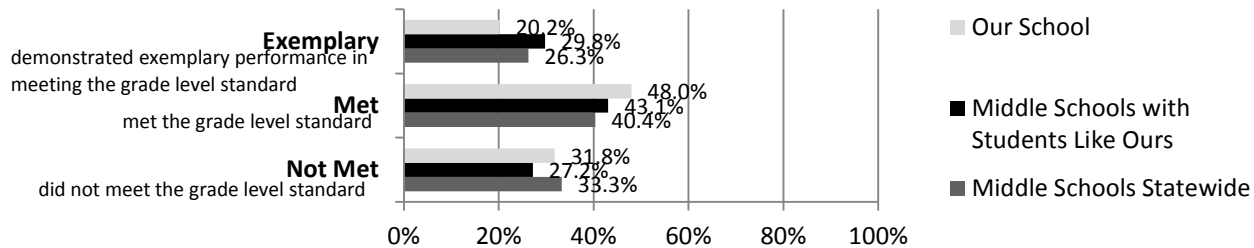
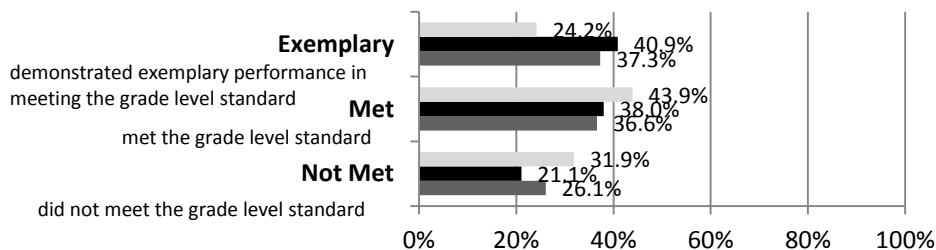
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I/S-Insufficient Sample

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 School: Percent Met and Above for each grade level

6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
62.7	69.6	70.5

Social Studies SCPASS

Our School: Percent Met and Above for each grade level

6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
65.7	60.4	76.2

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.

End of Course Tests

Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our School	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	78.8	98.2
English 1	75.3	96.8
Biology 1	69.2	62.1
US History and the Constitution	53.2	64.9
All Subjects	67.3	97.3

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.

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OPPORTUNITIES

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with students like ours
Students (n = 3,457)			
Percent of students participating in Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF; homeless, foster, or migrant students (poverty index)	56.9	Down from 63.5%	N/A
Percent of students (grade 7 & 8) enrolled in HS credit courses	36.8	Up from 4.2%	27.3
Attendance Rate	100.0	Up from 99.9%	95.7
With disabilities	9.4	Up from 8.9%	11.8
Out of school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0	No change	0.5
Percentage of students served by gifted and talented programs	9.8	Up from 9.5%	24.9
Percentage of students retained	3.0	Down from 3.1%	0.4
Annual dropout rate	0.0	No change	0.0
Teachers (n = 95)			
Percentage of teachers with advanced degrees	65.3	Up from 57.5%	61.4
Percentage of teachers on continuing contract	90.5	Up from 89.7%	78.6
Teachers returning from previous year	90.5	Up from 85.8%	86.8
Teacher attendance rate	99.3	Up from 94.6%	95.2
Average teacher salary*	\$37,532	Up 2.0%	\$47,530
Professional development days / teacher	16.1 days	Up from 14.6 days	11.2 days
Percentage of teacher vacancies for more than 9 weeks	0.0	N/A	0.4
School			
Principal's years at school	2.0	Up from 1.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	N/A	N/A	23.8 to 1
Prime instructional time	99.2	Up from 94.4%	89.5
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No change	Good
Opportunities in foreign languages	Excellent	N/A	Poor
AdvancEd (SACS) accreditation	Yes	No change	Yes
Parents attending conferences	94.1	Down from 98.1%	99.6
Character development program	Fair	Down from Good	Good
Avg. age of books / electronic media in the school library	N/A	N/A	13.3
Number of resources available per student in the school library media center	N/A	N/A	19.3
Bandwidth capacity per student	50-100 Mbps	N/C	N/A
Percent of classrooms with wireless access	0-25%	N/C	N/A
District-issued learning devices per student	1.0	N/C	0.7
District-issued technology devices per teacher	1.3	N/C	1.7
Percentage of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	12.3	Up from 2.9%	2.1
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$5,812	Down 0.2%	\$7,399
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	49.3	Up from 43.5%	62.7
Percent of expenditures for teachers' salaries**	50.2	Down from 85.2%	64.8

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

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

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OPPORTUNITIES**Evaluations by Teachers, Students, and Parents****Evaluations by Teachers, Students, and Parents**

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	69	65	187
Percent satisfied with learning environment	98.6	96.9	93.6
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	87.2	94.7	80.3
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	97.2	96.9	94.6

* Only students at the highest middle school grade and their parents were included.

State Ratings History of School

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

Based on state law, schools 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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