



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:	6-12 Middle	Principal:	Tim Gott
Enrollment:	350 students	Superintendent:	Wayne Brazell, Ph.D.
School Phone:	843-300-4118	Board Chair:	Warren Engle
School Website:	http://www.palmettoscholarsacademy.org		



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.

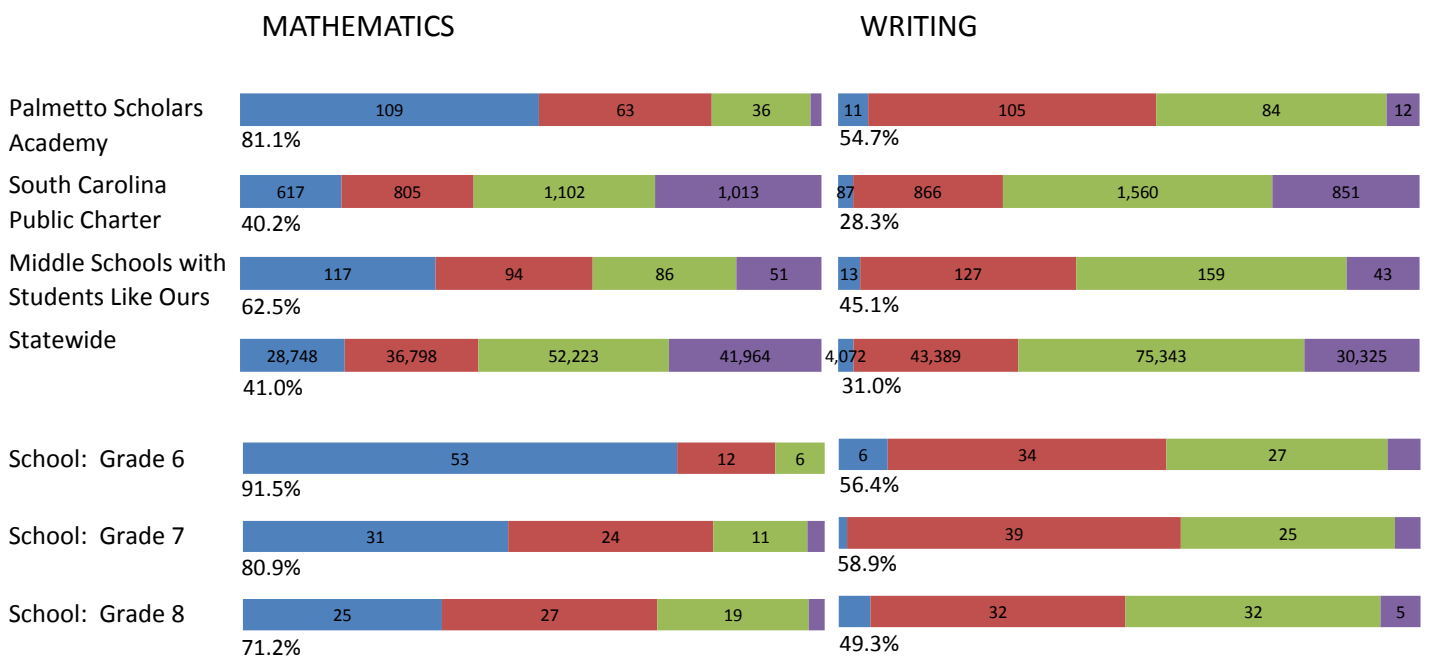
WORLD CLASS SKILLS & LIFE AND CAREER CHARACTERISTICS

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

Palmetto Scholars Academy was founded in 2011 by a group of parents seeking a unique educational environment that would meet the needs of gifted students. This initiative led to a 6th – 8th grade charter school with a mission to provide 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. Likewise, the school desires to help our students to 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. Over the past 5 years, PSA has grown to be a full middle and high school serving 6th – 12th grades. It has established itself as one of the top schools in the state. A few of the highlights of our success include: •Receiving grades of A and 100 on federal and state assessments for the school •Showing an increase from 180 students to 350 students in 5 years •Establishing ourselves as state leaders in areas such as robotics, cyber-security, National History Day, Beta Club, and Odyssey of the Mind •Obtaining state and national recognition in the Student Spaceflight Experiments Program for having two teams chosen to send their experiments to the International Space Station. These successes have provided the foundation for an outstanding educational experience. From the middle school up, we integrate differentiated strategies to promote depth and complexity in our curriculum and provide opportunities for acceleration and enrichment across all disciplines. At the high school level, we are utilizing dual-enrollment courses with Trident Technical College and the College of Charleston, AP courses, and honors courses so that our students can create college preparatory pathways in STEM and Arts & Humanities as they prepare for careers in those areas. By integrating best practices for educating high ability students throughout our curriculum, our students are more efficiently equipped with critical, creative, and collaborative skills necessary for success in today's society. One of the most critical components of our enriched curriculum is the research program which culminates in a Capstone Experience. Starting with sixth grade, our students take a series of research courses which move from exploration of multiple careers to actual production of a research project in at least one discipline consisting of a research paper and a product which could include an oral presentation, a visual or multi-media display, or a type of service. Just as important as our academic focus, PSA intentionally focuses on meeting the social and emotional needs of our students. We seek to create a safe place for all students as they navigate the multiple challenges of adolescence. Our staff strives to create positive relationships with every student in the classroom, in extracurricular opportunities, and through our house system. The house system is modeled after the British house

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

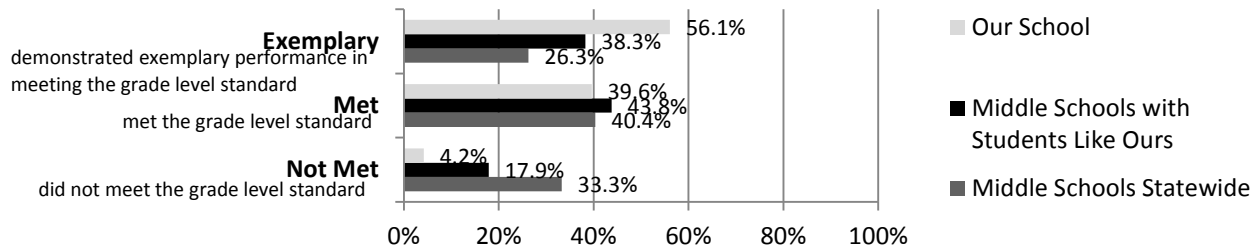
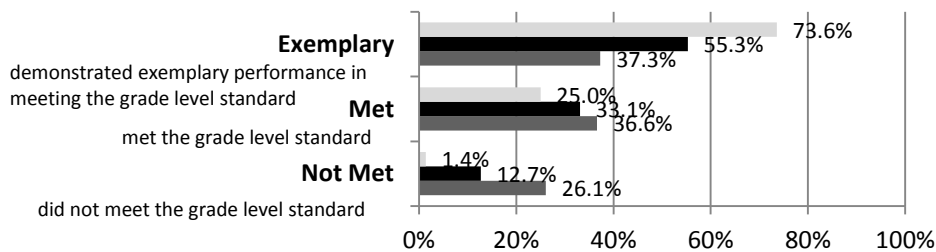
N/C-Not Collected

N/R-Not Reported

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
94.4	98.5	94.5

Social Studies SCPASS

Our School: Percent Met and Above for each grade level		
6th grade	7th grade	8th grade
100.0	97.1	98.6

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	96.7	98.7
English 1	98.7	90.9
Biology 1	94.0	89.1
US History and the Constitution	83.3	83.3
All Subjects	94.6	96.5

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.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A-Not Applicable

N/AV-Not Available

N/C-Not Collected

N/R-Not Reported

I/S-Insufficient Sample

OPPORTUNITIES

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with students like ours
Students (n = 350)			
Percent of students participating in Medicaid, SNAP, or TANF; homeless, foster, or migrant students (poverty index)	36.6	Down from 43.2%	N/A
Percent of students (grade 7 & 8) enrolled in HS credit courses	100.0	No change	41.1
Attendance Rate	95.6	Down from 96.6%	96.1
With disabilities	0.3	Up from 0.0%	8.3
Out of school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.6	Up from 0.3%	0.4
Percentage of students served by gifted and talented programs	67.7	Up from 58.4%	31.3
Percentage of students retained	0.9	Down from 3.0%	0.2
Annual dropout rate	0.0	No change	0.0
Teachers (n = 24)			
Percentage of teachers with advanced degrees	41.7	Down from 45.5%	54.2
Percentage of teachers on continuing contract	58.3	Up from 40.9%	72.9
Teachers returning from previous year	61.4	Up from 61.1%	85.3
Teacher attendance rate	92.2	Down from 92.9%	95.2
Average teacher salary*	\$41,506	Down 0.4%	\$45,270
Professional development days / teacher	10.5 days	Up from 0.7 days	9.1 days
Percentage of teacher vacancies for more than 9 weeks	8.7	N/A	1.2
School			
Principal's years at school	1.0	Down from 2.0	2.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	8.7 to 1	Down from 20.8 to 1	16.8 to 1
Prime instructional time	86.8	Down from 89.1%	90.2
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No change	Good
Opportunities in foreign languages	Excellent	N/A	Poor
AdvancEd (SACS) accreditation	No	No change	No
Parents attending conferences	73.5	Up from 65.2%	99.7
Character development program	Fair	Down from Good	Good
Avg. age of books / electronic media in the school library	N/A	N/A	12.3
Number of resources available per student in the school library media center	N/A	N/A	19.6
Bandwidth capacity per student	<25 Mbps	N/C	N/A
Percent of classrooms with wireless access	76-100%	N/C	N/A
District-issued learning devices per student	0.5	N/C	2.3
District-issued technology devices per teacher	1.0	N/C	1.8
Percentage of classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	23.3	Up from 9.4%	9.1
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$7,090	Up 14.0%	\$8,821
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	51.1	Up from 46.7%	61.8
Percent of expenditures for teachers' salaries**	53.8	Up from 53.6%	63.0

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

** 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

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

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	21	70	18
Percent satisfied with learning environment	90.5	71.4	83.4
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	85.7	71.0	83.3
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	100.0	90.0	66.7

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

State Ratings History of School

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

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](#)

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A-Not Applicable

N/AV-Not Available

N/C-Not Collected

N/R-Not Reported

I/S-Insufficient Sample