SC EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

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Cyclical Review of the Accountability System

Wednesday, February 13, 2013
2:00 p.m.
Room 112 Blatt Building

Agenda

I.	**Introduction of Panel Members**	
II.	**Overview of Current System**	**Melanie Barton**
III.	**Innovation Initiative**	**Gerrita Postlewait**
IV.	**Comments**	**Superintendent Zais**
V.	**Next Steps**	**Melanie Barton**

Cyclical Review of the Accountability System

Below is a schedule of the panel's meeting as well as focus group discussions that will occur across the state:

February 13, 2013 at 2:00 pm	First Meeting of the Panel
April 8, 2013 at 10:00 am	Second Meeting of the Panel
	Dave Conley Founder of the Educational Policy Improvement Center (EPIC) will facilitate the discussion

Focus Group Discussions Held and Facilitated by EPIC staff:

April 9, 2013 –	1-5:00 pm in Charleston
April 10, 2013	1-5:00 pm in Columbia
April 11, 2013	1- 5:00 pm in Greenville

June 3, 2013 –	Final Meeting of the Panel
June 10, 2013	Dave Conley to Present Report to EOC

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Comparison of 2012 Federal and State Ratings

Columbia – The release of the 2012 state report card ratings for schools and districts can now be compared to the federal report card grades that were issued by the South Carolina Department of Education on August 2, 2012.

Background

The Education Oversight Committee (EOC) was established in 1998 by the Education Accountability Act. The EOC has responsibility for establishing the criteria for the **South Carolina** accountability system. The state report cards that are released in November 2012 are based upon achievement in school year 2011-12 including the on-time and five-year graduation rates for 2011-12. By current state law, the EOC is responsible for working with the State Board of Education and a broad-based group of stakeholders to determine the criteria for and establishment of five academic performance ratings of excellent, good, average, below average and at-risk for all schools and school districts.

Until 2001 when Congress passed the No Child Left Behind Act, South Carolina had only an independent state accountability system. Since 2001 there have been both a state and a federal accountability system.

The South Carolina Department of Education released on August 2 the new **federal** accountability system that was approved by the United States Department of Education on July 19, 2012. The 2012 federal accountability system is based upon the most recent administration of state assessments, those administered in school year 2011-12; however, the federal accountability system is based upon the 2010-11 graduation rates for districts and schools. The difference is due to availability of the data.

What are the differences in the two systems?

Under the **South Carolina** accountability system, schools and districts receive **two** ratings: one an absolute rating based on one-year of student performance; and the other, a growth rating that represents individual student gains over time. The growth rating is determined by looking at the gains made by individual student over time.

The new **federal** accountability system combines absolute achievement and an aspect of growth in one score. The growth used in the new federal system is not based on the progress of individual student scores. Instead, it defines growth as the difference between the average achievement of different groups of students. For example, the growth in Mathematics is defined as the difference between the average score for all students tested in 2012 and the average score for all students tested in 2011. Part of this difference is growth, but another part of this difference is due to changes in the student population.

Comparisons:

1. Under the new **federal** system, 72 percent of all school districts in this state received a grade of A or B as compared to 50 percent of districts that received an Excellent or Good rating in November of 2012 on the **South Carolina** accountability system.

South Carolina Absolute Rating 2012	**Number of School Districts (%)**		**FEDERAL Rating 2012**	**Number of School Districts (%)**
Excellent	27 (32.1%)		A	25 (29.8%)
Good	15 (17.9%)		B	36 (42.9%)
Average	30 (35.7%)		C	7 (8.3%)
Below Average	4 (4.8%)		D	6 (7.1%)
At-Risk	8 (9.5%)		F	10 (11.9%)
	84			84

2. For schools, the same trend holds. Under the new **federal** accountability system 73 percent of elementary, middle and high schools received an A or B rating as compared to 51 percent who received an Excellent or Good rating in 2012 on **South Carolina's** accountability system. At the other end of the spectrum, 10% of schools received a grade of F as compared to 5% who received a rating of At-Risk.

South Carolina Absolute Rating 2012	**Number of Schools (%)**		**FEDERAL Rating 2012**	**Number of Schools (%)**
Excellent	364 (31%)		A	500 (46%)
Good	233 (20%)		B	295 (27%)
Average	404 (35%)		C	115 (11%)
Below Average	97 (8%)		D	60 (6%)
At-Risk	61 (5%)		F	114 (10%)

Student Performance in SC

an issue brief on the 2012 release of the State School and District Report Cards

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Dear Fellow South Carolinian,

This document compiles the results of analyses of the 2012 SC school and district report card ratings. As it has historically done, the EOC looks for trends in the results, areas of concern, and areas of success and improvement. This year's results show improvement but they also show persistent underperformance in areas of South Carolina where sadly, interventions have not produced successful results.

What can be done? How can we achieve the 2020 Vision where every student in South Carolina graduates with the knowledge and skills necessary to complete successfully in the global economy, participate in a democratic society, and contribute positively as members of families and communities?

As the chairman of the agency that holds the state accountable for building the education system South Carolina needs to compete, I am convinced there is a role that each of us should play in making certain children achieve success.

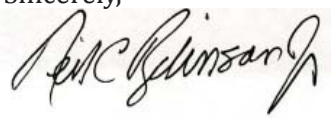
Business leaders: Get involved and stay involved. The workforce of the future is in today's classrooms. Are students prepared to be critical thinkers and succeed in the global economy? New Carolina's Council on Competitiveness has begun an initiative focused on supporting innovation in the PK-12 system, so there is a chance now for you to become involved and invested.

Parents and families: Your role in your children's education and their chance for success can't be over-emphasized. Encourage teachers and school administrators to address concerns you observe with your child or within a school. Most importantly, hold high expectations for the young people in your life! Let them know it matters!

Educators: Schools should be preparing students to be college- and career-ready which requires more rigor. Be engaged, be passionate and be innovative so that we can better equip our students for success.

And finally, students: The education system is designed with you in the center. By 2018, the fastest-growing, highest-paying jobs will require education beyond high school. In the U.S., jobs will increase by 19% for people with an associate's degree, 13% for those with a bachelor's degree, and 13% for those with a post-secondary vocational certificate. The expectations we have for you are high because the needs of the global economy demand it. Make sure you have the tools you need for success because it IS within reach.

Sincerely,



Neil C. Robinson, Jr.
EOC Chairman

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Data sources: based on data received from SC Department of Education on October 29, October 30, November 6, and November 7, 2012.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

The goal of the state accountability system is for every student in grades 3 through 8 to demonstrate at each grade level performance that meets or exceeds the expectations of the grade level. And, the goal of the state accountability system is for every student to pass HSAP and all end-of-course assessments and to graduate from high school. Consequently, district and school ratings are based *entirely on student achievement* on standards-based assessments and longitudinally matched student data using the following assessments and criteria:

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) in mathematics, reading & research, writing, science and social studies in grades 3 through 8. PASS-Alt is administered to students with significant cognitive disabilities and the results reflected only in the district rating.

End-of-course assessments for high school credit courses in English I, Algebra I/Math for the Technologies II, Biology I/Applied Biology 2 and US History and the Constitution. Biology replaced Physical Science in 2012.

High School Assessment Program (HSAP) State law requires students to pass both the English language arts and mathematics portions of the HSAP in order to receive a high school diploma.

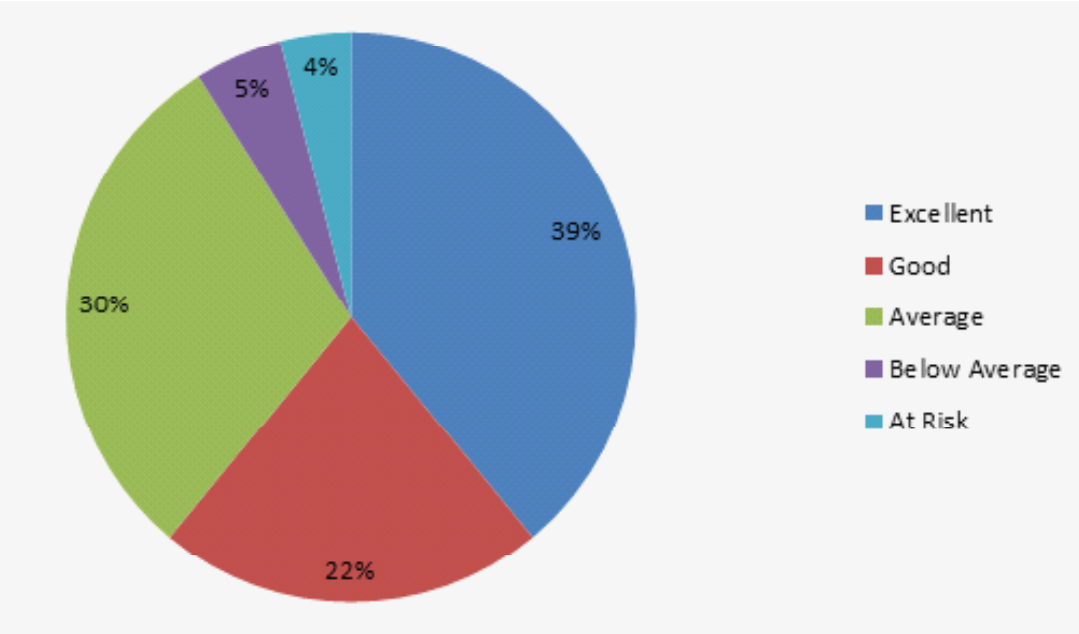
Graduation Rate as measured by an on-time rate (percentage of students who enroll in the ninth grade and receive a high school diploma four years later) and a five-year graduation rate for students who earned a high school diploma within five years of entering the ninth grade.

Other assessments and criteria are used for the ratings for primary schools, vocational and career centers and special schools that are appropriate to the mission of the schools.

Results on PASS, End-of-course assessments, HSAP, and the graduation rate were encouraging this year. Performance from 2011 from 2012 was higher overall in subject areas tested and grade levels tested, particularly in Science. Performance on HSAP and end-of-course assessments, with the exception of Algebra I/Mathematics for the Technologies 2, went up from 2011 to 2012.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Percent of Students Enrolled in Schools by Report Card Rating, 2012



- Sixty-one percent of students were enrolled in a school rated *Excellent* or *Good*
- Nine percent of students were enrolled in underperforming schools rated *Below Average* or *At Risk*

School ratings for elementary and middle schools are determined primarily by student performance on the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS). The following tables show the percentage of students scoring Met and Exemplary in 2010, 2011, and 2012 in each of the tested subject areas. "Met" means the student met the grade level standard. "Exemplary" means the student demonstrated exemplary performance in meeting the grade level standard. In the charts, green denotes improvement from 2011 to 2012; red denotes a decline.

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards: Reading & Research Performance

Reading & Research	% Students Scoring Met and Exemplary			
Grade	2012	2011	2010	Difference between 2012 and 2011
3	80.3	80.0	80.7	0.3
4	78.2	78.0	76.5	0.2
5	76.5	78.3	78.1	-1.8
6	69.7	70.2	72.2	-0.5
7	71.4	68.4	69.2	3.0
8	69.8	67.8	63.7	2.0

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards: Mathematics Performance

Mathematics	% Students Scoring Met and Exemplary			
Grade	2012	2011	2010	Difference between 2012 and 2011
3	72.6	70.4	70.0	2.2
4	78.4	79.4	76.7	-1.0
5	76.1	75.3	71.3	0.8
6	73.6	72.5	70.3	1.1
7	71.6	69.7	67.0	1.9
8	68.6	69.5	63.4	-0.9

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards: Science Performance

Science	% Students Scoring Met and Exemplary			
Grade	2012	2011	2010	Difference between 2012 and 2011
3	60.7	60.8	55.7	-0.1
4	73.8	70.9	69.3	2.9
5	71.7	64.9	66.0	6.8
6	66.1	64.9	60.9	1.2
7	74.8	71.7	73.4	3.1
8	75.4	70.1	67.7	5.3

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards: Social Studies Performance

Social Studies	% Students Scoring Met and Exemplary			
Grade	2012	2011	2010	Difference between 2012 and 2011
3	74.6	76.6	73.2	-2.0
4	80.9	77.1	76.2	3.8
5	69.9	70.4	66.1	-0.5
6	77.8	77.6	79.4	0.2
7	68.7	63.4	62.0	5.3
8	71.4	71.9	68.8	-0.5

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards: Writing Performance*

Writing	% Students Scoring Met and Exemplary			
Grade	2012	2011	2010	Difference between 2012 and 2011
3				
4				
5	73.5	77.7	74.5	-4.2
6				
7				
8	74.1	67.8	71.9	6.3

**Writing was only administered in grades 5 and 8 in 2010, 2011 and 2012.*

In addition to graduation rate, ratings for middle and high schools are determined by student performance on end-of-course assessments and the High School Assessment Program (HSAP). End-of-course test results for middle school students are factored into the ratings for middle schools. The following tables document the achievement of students on end-of-course assessments and HSAP from 2009-2012.

Percentage of Students Passing End-of-Course Assessments

Course	2012	2011	2010	2009
Algebra I/Mathematics for the Technologies 2	81.7%	82.1%	80.2%	77.2%
English I	74.0%	72.5%	73.7%	68.4%
US History and the Constitution	52.8%	49.7%	46.3%	42.4%
Biology 1/Applied Biology 2	76.3%	68.0%		
Physical Science		59.8%	59.1%	55.5%

Note: The Biology assessment replaced Physical Science in 2012.

Percentage of Students Passing HSAP

	2012	2011	2010	2009
English Language Arts Standard	89.1%	88.6%	85.9%	84.6%
Math Standard	82.2%	81.2%	81.7%	79.6%

Percentage of Students Passing both sections of HSAP on first attempt

2012	2011	2010	2009
80.1%	79.4%	78.6%	76.4%

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT IN READING

Reading proficiency continues to be a challenge for South Carolina students. The following tables show the percentage of students scoring Met or Exemplary on PASS Reading & Research by 2012 Absolute Rating.

Percentage of Students Scoring Met or Exemplary on PASS Reading & Research by Absolute Rating in 2012

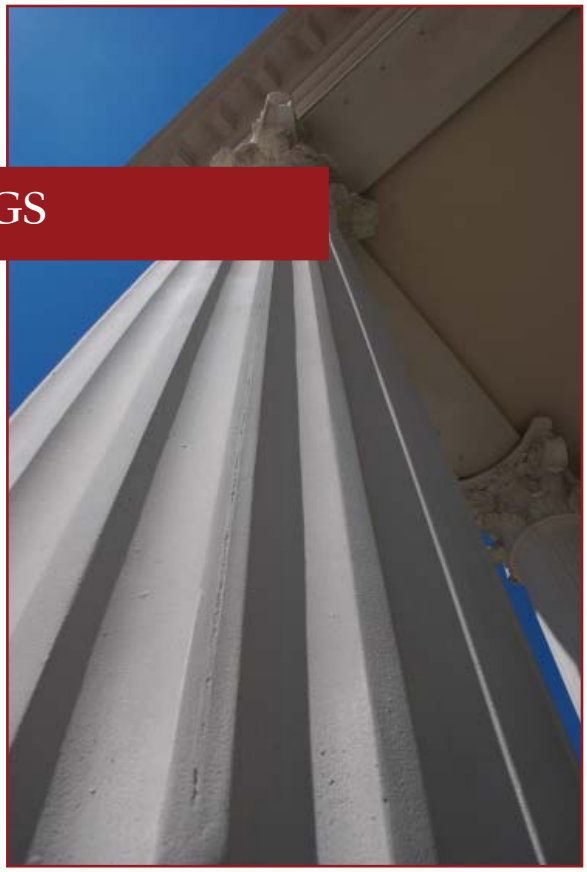
Elementary Schools

Absolute Rating	Percent of Students	Average Poverty Index
Excellent	87.1%	56.0
Good	80.4%	74.7
Average	70.6%	87.7
Below Average	58.5%	94.2
At Risk	45.8%	96.9

Middle Schools

Absolute Rating	Percent of Students	Average Poverty Index
Excellent	82.3%	50.6
Good	73.3%	69.7
Average	65.2%	81.2
Below Average	52.3%	93.5
At Risk	52.3%	93.9

SCHOOL DISTRICT RATINGS



School district ratings are a reflection of student performance. Since overall student performance improved, results for school district ratings improved from 2011 to 2012:

- This year, 8 districts are rated At Risk, compared to 9 in 2011.

- The number of districts rated Excellent or Good increased from 33 in 2011 to 42 in 2012.

- 31 districts improved their Absolute Rating while 3 districts had declines in their Absolute Ratings with 48 maintaining the same Absolute Rating for 2011 and 2012.

SCHOOL DISTRICT RATINGS

Absolute Ratings for SC School Districts, number and percentage by year, 2009-2012

Absolute Rating	2012	2011	2010	2009
Excellent	27 (32.1%)	11 (12.8%)	6 (7.0%)	1 (1.2%)
Good	15 (17.9%)	22 (25.6%)	12 (14.0%)	0
Average	30 (35.7%)	35 (40.7%)	48 (55.8%)	24 (28.2%)
Below Average	4 (4.8%)	9 (10.5%)	14 (16.3%)	39 (45.9%)
At-Risk	8 (9.5%)	9 (10.5%)	6 (7.0%)	21 (24.7%)
Number of Districts	84	86	86	85

Notes: The SC Public Charter School District started receiving ratings in 2010. Also, in 2011-12 Dillon School Districts 1 and 2 merged to form Dillon 4. Additionally, Sumter School Districts 2 and 17 merged to form Sumter School District.

School District Absolute Ratings: Improvers and Decliners

31 Districts Improving From:	
Average to Excellent (5)	Barnwell 29, Marion 7, Saluda, Florence 1, Lancaster
Good to Excellent (11)	Anderson 2, Clarendon 3, Spartanburg 2, Spartanburg 5, Calhoun, Richland 2, Georgetown, Oconee, Dorchester 2, Spartanburg 4, Anderson 5
Average to Good (5)	Florence 2, Pickens, Kershaw, York 1, Berkeley
Below Average to Average (7)	Lexington 2, Laurens 55, Laurens 56, Lexington 4, Fairfield, Spartanburg 7, Williamsburg
At Risk to Below Average (2)	Lee, Hampton 2
At Risk to Average (1)	Marion 1

3 Districts Declining From:	
Good to Average (1)	Cherokee
Average to At Risk (2)	Florence 4, Barnwell 45

School District Growth Ratings

Growth Ratings for SC School Districts, number and percentage by year, 2009-2012

Absolute Rating	2012	2011	2010	2009
Excellent	21 (25.0%)	18 (20.9%)	23 (26.7%)	0 (0%)
Good	34 (40.5%)	24 (27.9%)	28 (32.6%)	2 (2.4%)
Average	16 (19.0%)	21 (24.4%)	17 (19.8%)	5 (5.9%)
Below Average	6 (7.1%)	20 (23.3%)	11 (12.8%)	20 (23.5%)
At-Risk	7 (8.3%)	3 (3.5%)	7 (8.1%)	58 (68.2%)
Number of Districts	84	86	86	85

Note: The SC Public Charter School District started receiving ratings in 2010.

Graduation Rates

The on-time graduation rate in South Carolina improved from 2011, although it is not on pace to meet the 2020 Vision. The 2020 Vision recommends that the state's on-time graduation rate should be 88.3 percent by 2020. Preparing students for college and careers requires, at a minimum, that they have a high school diploma.

SC On-Time Graduation Rate, 2009-2012

2012	2011	2010	2009
74.9%	73.6%	72.1%	73.7%

SC District Graduation Rate by Absolute Rating, 2012

Absolute Rating	On-Time Graduation Rate	5-Year Graduation Rate
Excellent	83.5%	83.6%
Good	78.2%	80.6%
Average	74.4%	75.9%
Below Average	73.9%	73.4%
At Risk	59.3%	64.4%

Five Year Report Card Rating Summary - Districts: 2008-2012

District	Poverty Index	Absolute 2012	Growth 2012	Absolute 2011	Growth 2011	Absolute 2010	Growth 2010	Absolute 2009	Growth 2009	Absolute 2008	Growth 2008
Abbeville	79.09	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Average	Good	Excellent	Average	At Risk	Average	Average
Aiken	71.40	Average	Good	Average	Below Average	Average	Excellent	Below Average	At Risk	Average	Below Average
Allendale	98.20	At Risk	Good	At Risk	Excellent	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	Good	At Risk	Below Average
Anderson 1	56.42	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Average	At Risk	Good	Average
Anderson 2	68.43	Excellent	Excellent	Good	At Risk	Good	Excellent	Average	At Risk	Average	Below Average
Anderson 3	79.59	Average	Good	Average	Excellent	Average	Good	At Risk	At Risk	Below Average	At Risk
Anderson 4	68.08	Excellent	Good	Good	Average	Good	Excellent	Average	At Risk	Average	Average
Anderson 5	68.22	Good	Average	Good	Excellent	Average	At Risk	Average	At Risk	Average	Good
Bamberg 1	77.08	Average	Good	Average	Excellent	Average	Below Average	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	Good
Bamberg 2	97.91	Below Average	Good	Below Average	Good	At Risk	Average	At Risk	Below Average	At Risk	At Risk
Barnwell 19	94.14	Average	At Risk	Average	Good	Average	Excellent	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	Below Average
Barnwell 29	84.67	Excellent	Excellent	Average	Excellent	Average	Average	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	Below Average
Barnwell 45	80.31	At Risk	At Risk	Average	Average	Average	Excellent	At Risk	At Risk	Below Average	Average
Beaufort	67.31	Average	Good	Average	Excellent	Average	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average	Good
Berkeley	71.80	Good	Good	Average	Good	Average	Excellent	Below Average	At Risk	Average	Good
Calhoun	90.37	Excellent	Average	Good	Excellent	Average	Average	Below Average	At Risk	Average	Excellent
Charleston	63.53	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Average	Below Average	Average	At Risk	Average	Excellent
Cherokee	78.73	Average	At Risk	Good	Below Average	Average	Good	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average	Excellent

Five Year Report Card Rating Summary - Districts: 2008-2012

District	Poverty Index	Absolute 2012	Growth 2012	Absolute 2011	Growth 2011	Absolute 2010	Growth 2010	Absolute 2009	Growth 2009	Absolute 2008	Growth 2008
Chester	81.15	Average	Average	Average	Below Average	Average	Good	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	Average
Chesterfield	80.64	Average	Good	Average	Excellent	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average	Average
Clarendon 1	95.36	Good	Average	Good	Average	Average	Good	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	Excellent
Clarendon 2	91.07	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average	Good	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	Below Average
Clarendon 3	70.75	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Average	Average	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average	At Risk
Colleton	88.54	Average	Average	Average	Excellent	Below Average	Good	At Risk	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average
Darlington	82.41	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Average	Good	Excellent	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	Excellent
Dillon 3	79.38	Average	Average	Average	Below Average	Average	Good	Below Average	At Risk	Average	Good
Dillon 4	94.28	At Risk	Average	No Rating	No Rating	No Rating	No Rating	No Rating	No Rating	No Rating	No Rating
Dorchester 2	57.61	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Average	Below Average	Average	Excellent
Dorchester 4	87.79	Average	Good	Average	Average	Average	Excellent	At Risk	At Risk	Below Average	Excellent
Edgefield	71.84	Average	At Risk	Average	Below Average	Average	Excellent	Below Average	At Risk	Average	Average
Fairfield	94.47	Average	Good	Below Average	Excellent	Below Average	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	At Risk	Average
Florence 1	72.87	Excellent	Excellent	Average	Average	Average	Excellent	Below Average	At Risk	Average	Average
Florence 2	78.73	Good	Good	Average	Below Average	Average	Average	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	At Risk
Florence 3	92.92	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Average	Good	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	Below Average
Florence 4	94.99	At Risk	At Risk	Average	Below Average	Below Average	Average	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	Below Average

Five Year Report Card Rating Summary - Districts: 2008-2012

District	Poverty Index	Absolute 2012	Growth 2012	Absolute 2011	Growth 2011	Absolute 2010	Growth 2010	Absolute 2009	Growth 2009	Absolute 2008	Growth 2008
Florence 5	75.90	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Below Average	Average	Average	Below Average	Below Average	Average	Good
Georgetown	75.16	Excellent	Average	Good	Below Average	Average	Average	Below Average	At Risk	Average	Below Average
Greenville	60.32	Good	Good	Good	Average	Average	Average	Average	Below Average	Average	Average
Greenwood 50	74.01	Average	Below Average	Average	Below Average	Average	Good	Below Average	At Risk	Average	Good
Greenwood 51	82.15	Average	Below Average	Average	Below Average	Average	Good	Below Average	At Risk	Average	Excellent
Greenwood 52	68.95	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Average	At Risk	Good	Excellent
Hampton 1	83.49	Average	Excellent	Average	Excellent	Below Average	Good	At Risk	At Risk	Below Average	Average
Hampton 2	97.10	Below Average	Average	At Risk	Average	At Risk	Excellent	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	Average
Horry	74.50	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Good	Average	At Risk	Average	Average
Jasper	91.01	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	Excellent	At Risk	Below Average	At Risk	At Risk	Below Average	Excellent
Kershaw	68.63	Good	Good	Average	Average	Average	Good	Below Average	At Risk	Average	Good
Lancaster	67.05	Excellent	Excellent	Average	Below Average	Average	Good	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	Average
Laurens 55	80.75	Average	Excellent	Below Average	Excellent	Average	Below Average	Below Average	Average	Below Average	Below Average
Laurens 56	82.62	Average	Excellent	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average	Good	At Risk	At Risk	Below Average	Good
Lee	96.96	Below Average	At Risk	At Risk	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	At Risk	Excellent
Lexington 1	51.07	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Average	At Risk	Average	Average
Lexington 2	77.29	Average	Excellent	Below Average	Average	Average	Good	Below Average	At Risk	Average	Average

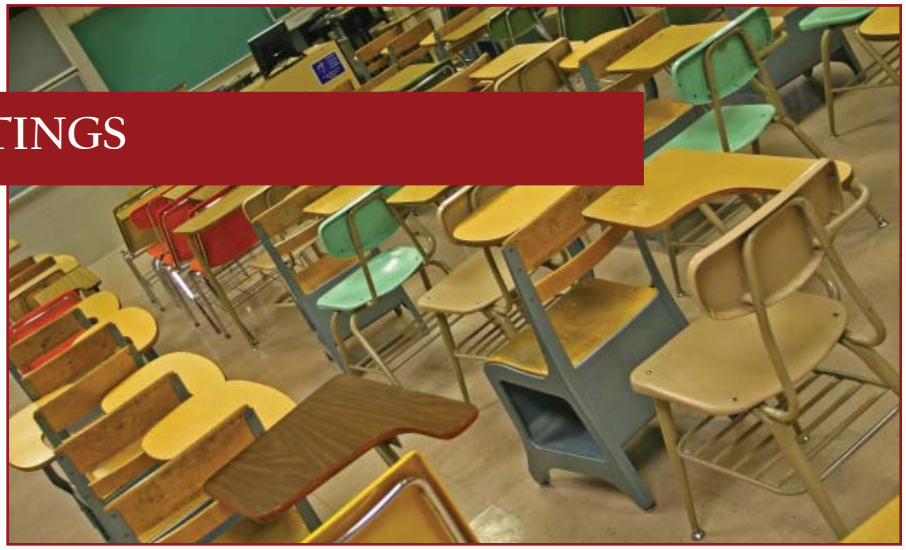
Five Year Report Card Rating Summary - Districts: 2008-2012

District	Poverty Index	Absolute 2012	Growth 2012	Absolute 2011	Growth 2011	Absolute 2010	Growth 2010	Absolute 2009	Growth 2009	Absolute 2008	Growth 2008
Lexington 3	77.53	Good	Below Average	Good	Good	Average	Good	Below Average	At Risk	Average	Excellent
Lexington 4	85.90	Average	Excellent	Below Average	Good	Below Average	Good	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	Excellent
Lexington 5	44.21	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Average	At Risk	Good	Excellent
McCormick	92.08	Average	Below Average	Average	Below Average	Average	Average	Below Average	At Risk	Average	Below Average
Marion 1	91.68	Average	Excellent	At Risk	Good	At Risk	Below Average	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	Below Average
Marion 2	95.17	At Risk	Excellent	At Risk	Average	At Risk	Below Average	At Risk	At Risk	Below Average	Excellent
Marion 7	98.13	Excellent	Excellent	Average	Good	Below Average	Good	At Risk	At Risk	Below Average	Excellent
Marlboro	92.77	At Risk	Good	At Risk	Below Average	Below Average	Good	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	Below Average
Newberry	75.65	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average	At Risk	Average	Below Average	Below Average	Average
Oconee	71.49	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Average	Good	Below Average	At Risk	Average	Average
Orangeburg 3	94.98	Average	Average	Average	At Risk	Average	Excellent	At Risk	At Risk	At Risk	Excellent
Orangeburg 4	84.42	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average	Good	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	Good
Orangeburg 5	92.16	Average	Average	Average	Excellent	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	Excellent
Pickens	64.12	Good	Good	Average	Good	Good	Good	Average	Average	Below Average	At Risk
Richland 1	81.72	Below Average	Good	Below Average	Excellent	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	Average	Below Average	Excellent
Richland 2	58.00	Excellent	Good	Good	Average	Good	Good	Average	At Risk	Average	Average
Saluda	80.28	Excellent	Excellent	Average	Good	Average	Good	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average

Five Year Report Card Rating Summary - Districts: 2008-2012

District	Poverty Index	Absolute 2012	Growth 2012	Absolute 2011	Growth 2011	Absolute 2010	Growth 2010	Absolute 2009	Growth 2009	Absolute 2008	Growth 2008
Spartanburg 1	65.49	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Average	Good	Excellent	Average	Below Average	Average	Good
Spartanburg 2	64.22	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Below Average	Good	Excellent	Average	At Risk	Average	Average
Spartanburg 3	74.18	Good	Good	Good	Good	Average	Average	Average	Below Average	Average	Below Average
Spartanburg 4	68.72	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Good	Average	Average	At Risk	Good	Below Average
Spartanburg 5	63.70	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Good	Good	Excellent	Average	Average	Average	Average
Spartanburg 6	70.05	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Average	Good	Average	Below Average	Average	Average
Spartanburg 7	77.95	Average	Average	Below Average	Average	Average	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average	Below Average	Excellent
Sumter	81.81	Good	Below Average	No Rating	No Rating	No Rating	No Rating	No Rating	No Rating	No Rating	No Rating
Union	80.40	Average	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Below Average	At Risk	Below Average	Below Average
Williamsburg	97.37	Average	Below Average	Below Average	At Risk	Average	Average	At Risk	At Risk	Below Average	At Risk
York 1 (York)	72.40	Good	Good	Average	Good	Average	Good	Below Average	At Risk	Average	Below Average
York 2 (Clover)	43.44	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Average	At Risk	Good	Average
York 3 (Rock Hill)	64.92	Good	Average	Good	Average	Average	Average	Average	Average	Below Average	Average
York 4 (Fort Mill)	27.76	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent	Excellent	Good	Excellent	Excellent
SC Public Charter District	68.13	At Risk	Good	At Risk	Below Average	Below Average	Average	No Rating	No Rating	No Rating	No Rating

SCHOOL RATINGS



Like school district ratings, school ratings are a reflection of student performance.

Changes in Absolute Ratings from 2011 to 2012 include:

Improvers: 240 school report cards (20.6%) improved in Absolute Rating.
Sliders: 65 school report cards (5.6%) declined in Absolute Rating.

SCHOOL RATINGS

Absolute Ratings for SC Schools, number and percentage by year, 2009-2012

Absolute Rating	2012	2011	2010	2009
Excellent	**395 (33%)** Primary: 31 Elementary: 205 Middle: 72 High: 87	**318 (27%)** Primary: 27 Elementary: 166 Middle: 53 High: 72	**242 (21%)** Primary: 32 Elementary: 134 Middle: 36 High: 40	**188 (16%)** Primary: 26 Elementary: 111 Middle: 26 High: 25
Good	**234 (20%)** Primary: 1 Elementary: 133 Middle: 55 High: 44	**211 (18%)** Primary: 3 Elementary: 129 Middle: 51 High: 28	**209 (18%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 119 Middle: 46 High: 44	**185 (16%)** Primary: 3 Elementary: 105 Middle: 41 High: 36
Average	**404 (34%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 225 Middle: 125 High: 54	**462 (39%)** Primary: 1 Elementary: 259 Middle: 125 High: 77	**510 (44%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 289 Middle: 136 High: 85	**537 (46%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 301 Middle: 143 High: 93
Below Average	**97 (8%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 61 Middle: 31 High: 5	**120 (10%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 66 Middle: 42 High: 12	**136 (12%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 72 Middle: 52 High: 12	**170 (15%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 86 Middle: 62 High: 22
At Risk	**61 (5%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 20 Middle: 24 High: 17	**69 (6%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 23 Middle: 29 High: 17	**69 (6%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 24 Middle: 27 High: 18	**83 (7%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 33 Middle: 29 High: 21
Number of Report Cards	1,191	1,180	1,166	1,163

Note: The above table includes all charter schools but does not include ratings for career and technology centers.

School Absolute Ratings: patterns of performance across three years, 2010-2012

"Consistently Excellent"
216 school report cards had an Absolute Rating of *Excellent* all three years.

"Consistently Improving"
29 school report cards improved Absolute Rating from 2010 to 2011 and again from 2011 to 2012.

"Persistently Underperforming"
33 school report cards had an Absolute Rating of *At Risk* all three years.

Absolute Ratings for Charter Schools, 2010-2012

Absolute Rating	2012	2011	2010
Excellent	18 (28.1%)	12 (21.8%)	10 (23.3%)
Good	3 (4.7%)	6 (10.9%)	4 (9.3%)
Average	18 (28.1%)	11 (20.0%)	13 (30.2%)
Below Average	10 (15.6%)	12 (21.8%)	5 (11.6%)
At Risk	15 (23.4%)	14 (25.5%)	11 (25.6%)
Total # of report cards	64	55	43

Absolute Ratings for Palmetto Priority Schools, 2010-2012

Absolute Rating	2012	2011	2010
Excellent	0	1	0
Good	0	0	0
Average	3	5	2
Below Average	19	15	14
At Risk	33	31	36
Total # of report cards	55	52	52

Four-Year Performance of Underperforming Schools*

Number of Schools	2009 Absolute Rating	The 2009 Underperforming schools in 2012 had Absolute Ratings of:					No Report Card**
		Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At Risk	
169	Below Average	1	8	85	48	14	13
83	At Risk	1	2	10	24	30	16

**Underperforming schools, in this case, are schools with an Absolute Rating of Below Average or At Risk.*
*** The most likely reason that a school did not receive a report card in 2012 was that the school had previously been closed or merged.*

Growth Ratings for SC Schools, number and percentage by year, 2009-2012

Growth Rating	2012	2011	2010	2009
Excellent	**374 (32%)** Primary: 9 Elementary: 203 Middle: 88 High: 74	**251 (21%)** Primary: 3 Elementary: 152 Middle: 54 High: 42	**263 (23%)** Primary: 13 Elementary: 183 Middle: 42 High: 25	**110 (10%)** Primary: 7 Elementary: 76 Middle: 8 High: 19
Good	**265 (22%)** Primary: 21 Elementary: 131 Middle: 75 High: 38	**249 (21%)** Primary: 24 Elementary: 126 Middle: 67 High: 32	**242 (21%)** Primary: 15 Elementary: 139 Middle: 67 High: 21	**201 (17%)** Primary: 15 Elementary: 124 Middle: 26 High: 36
Average	**390 (33%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 243 Middle: 112 High: 35	**456 (39%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 293 Middle: 134 High: 29	**402 (35%)** Primary: 1 Elementary: 240 Middle: 144 High: 17	**535 (46%)** Primary: 1 Elementary: 338 Middle: 185 High: 11
Below Average	**101 (9%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 44 Middle: 20 High: 37	**140 (12%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 49 Middle: 27 High: 64	**135 (12%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 58 Middle: 29 High: 48	**161 (14%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 50 Middle: 50 High: 61
At-Risk	**57 (5%)** Primary: 1 Elementary: 22 Middle: 12 High: 22	**75 (7%)** Primary: 3 Elementary: 23 Middle: 17 High: 32	**116 (10%)** Primary: 0 Elementary: 17 Middle: 15 High: 84	**150 (13%)** Primary: 1 Elementary: 47 Middle: 31 High: 70
Number of Report Cards	1,187	1,171	1,158	1,156

Note: The above table includes all charter schools but does not include ratings for career and technology centers. F

POVERTY IN SC SCHOOLS

Research indicates that student and school poverty can adversely affect student achievement. The research notes that students in poverty lack many resources and experiences that children of higher socioeconomic families have. These resources include access to medical services, access to technology, and in early years, access to written materials and even oral language when developing reading skills.

Federal, state and local policies have been instituted to address the impact of poverty on learning. These policies focus on improving the school and classroom environments; creating strong partnerships between schools, families and communities; and focusing on specific strategies to eliminate any achievement gaps. Specifically, policies that raise the expectations of all students, that engage students in active learning, that provide high quality instruction, curriculum and materials, and that engage families and communities in education can overcome the impact of poverty on student learning.

The poverty index is an indicator of the relative poverty of a school or district as measured by the number of students eligible for the Federal free or reduced-price lunch program and/or the number of students eligible for Medicaid services over the past three years. In 2012, the statewide poverty index for public schools in South Carolina was 69.6% as compared to 68.50% in 2011 and 67.74% in 2010. In South Carolina in school year 2011-12,

- Seven in 10 children attending SC public schools are in poverty.
- Only 40 schools (3%) served a population with a poverty index of 30% or less in the 2011-12 school year.
- Of the 1,088 schools that had poverty indices in both 2011 and 2012, 760 (70%) showed an increased poverty index in 2012.

Seven in 10 (61) school districts had a poverty index that exceeded 70%. However, in these 61 school districts, one out of every three districts had an Absolute Rating of Good or Excellent in 2012. Why? Local school and district leaders implemented policies and programs that raised the expectations of all students and with those expectations provided active, engaging instruction for all students.

The charts and data on the following pages describe the poverty in our schools and highlight the schools and districts that are meeting and overcoming the challenges of poverty.

POVERTY IN SCHOOLS

Absolute Ratings and Average Poverty Index, Schools

Absolute Rating	2012	2011	2010	2009
Excellent	57.0%	53.4%	50.6%	47.7%
Good	72.4%	68.5%	64.7%	62.8%
Average	85.0%	81.7%	79.4%	74.4%
Below Average	93.9%	92.5%	91.9%	90.2%
At Risk	93.1%	93.6%	94.8%	93.9%

2006-2012 School Ratings
Poverty Levels Across Primary, Elementary, Middle, and High School Report Cards

	Extent of Poverty (Poverty Index)		
Total Number of Report Cards (% of 1182 report cards in 2012) 1180 in 2011 1164 in 2010 1178 in 2009 1171 in 2008 1128 in 2007 1106 in 2006	**High Poverty (70%+)**	**Very High Poverty (80%+)**	**Extreme Poverty (90%+)**
	2012: 761 (64.4%) 2011: 746 (63.2%) 2010: 699 (60.1%) 2009: 684 (58.1%) 2008: 656 (56.0%) 2007: 601 (53.3%) 2006: 599 (54.2%)	**2012: 557 (47.1%)** 2011: 530 (44.9%) 2010: 514 (44.2%) 2009: 493 (41.9%) 2008: 471 (40.2%) 2007: 421 (37.3%) 2006: 402 (36.3%)	**2012: 332 (28.1%)** 2011: 312 (26.4%) 2010: 295 (25.3%) 2009: 283 (24.0%) 2008: 278 (23.7%) 2007: 228 (20.2%) 2006: 215 (19.4%)

Overcoming Poverty

- Nine schools had a poverty index of 90% or greater and an Absolute Rating of Excellent in 2012.
- 17 schools had a poverty index of 90% or greater and an Absolute Rating of Good in 2012.

District	School Name	Poverty Index	Absolute Rating 2012
Charleston	Matilda Dunston Elementary	97.80	Excellent
Charleston	Military Magnet Academy	94.12	Excellent
Abbeville	John C. Calhoun Elementary	93.90	Excellent
Clarendon 1	Scott's Branch High	93.57	Excellent
Charleston	Garrett Academy of Technology	92.91	Excellent
Calhoun	Calhoun County High	92.53	Excellent
Florence 3	Lake City High	91.27	Excellent
Horry	Socastee Elementary	90.91	Excellent
Orangeburg 5	North Middle/High	90.26	Excellent
Richland 1	Gadsden Elementary	99.43	Good
Richland 1	South Kilbourne Elementary	98.83	Good
Orangeburg 3	Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics	97.94	Good
Charleston	Stono Park Elementary	97.54	Good
Marion 7	Creek Bridge High	96.73	Good
Orangeburg 5	Whittaker Elementary	95.67	Good
Sumter	Manchester Elementary	95.16	Good
Horry	South Conway Elementary	93.98	Good
Hampton 1	Varnville Elementary	93.26	Good
Williamsburg	C. E. Murray High	93.25	Good
Clarendon 2	Manning Primary	93.21	Good
Colleton	Cottageville Elementary	92.73	Good
Dorchester 4	Harleyville-Ridgeville Elementary	92.58	Good
Darlington	Washington St. Elementary	91.92	Good
Greenville	Westcliffe Elementary	91.91	Good
Barnwell 19	Blackville-Hilda High	91.27	Good
Fairfield	Fairfield Magnet for Math and Science	90.77	Good

Note: Primary schools not included

	District	Absolute Index 2012	Poverty Index 2012	Absolute Rating 2012
1	York 4	4.32	27.76	Excellent
2	Lexington 5	3.95	44.21	Excellent
3	Darlington	3.88	82.41	Excellent
4	York 2	3.84	43.44	Excellent
5	Lexington 1	3.83	51.07	Excellent
6	Anderson 1	3.80	56.42	Excellent
7	Spartanburg 1	3.77	65.49	Excellent
8	Anderson 2	3.74	68.43	Excellent
9	Clarendon 3	3.71	70.75	Excellent
10	Barnwell 29	3.69	84.67	Excellent
11	Spartanburg 2	3.68	64.22	Excellent
12	Spartanburg 5	3.67	63.70	Excellent
13	Spartanburg 6	3.66	70.05	Excellent
14	Greenwood 52	3.63	68.95	Excellent
15	Florence 5	3.56	75.90	Excellent
16	Calhoun	3.55	90.37	Excellent
17	Richland 2	3.55	58.00	Excellent
18	Georgetown	3.54	75.16	Excellent
19	Marion 7	3.51	98.13	Excellent
20	Oconee	3.50	71.49	Excellent
21	Saluda	3.50	80.28	Excellent
22	Abbeville	3.46	79.09	Excellent
23	Florence 1	3.45	72.87	Excellent
24	Dorchester 2	3.44	57.61	Excellent
25	Lancaster	3.41	67.21	Excellent
26	Spartanburg 4	3.41	68.72	Excellent
27	Anderson 4	3.40	68.08	Excellent
28	Clarendon 1	3.38	95.36	Good
29	Horry	3.37	74.50	Good
30	Florence 2	3.35	78.73	Good
31	Pickens	3.35	64.12	Good
32	Greenville	3.33	60.32	Good
33	Charleston	3.32	63.53	Good
34	Sumter	3.30	81.81	Good
35	Florence 3	3.29	92.92	Good
36	Kershaw	3.27	68.63	Good
37	York 1	3.27	72.40	Good
38	York 3	3.26	64.92	Good
39	Lexington 3	3.25	77.53	Good
40	Spartanburg 3	3.24	74.18	Good
41	Berkeley	3.22	71.80	Good
42	Anderson 5	3.20	68.22	Good

	District	Absolute Index 2012	Poverty Index 2012	Absolute Rating 2012
43	Bamberg 1	3.15	77.08	Average
44	Aiken	3.13	71.40	Average
45	Chesterfield	3.11	80.64	Average
46	Newberry	3.11	75.65	Average
47	Greenwood 50	3.10	74.01	Average
48	Hampton 1	3.09	83.49	Average
49	Beaufort	3.08	67.31	Average
50	Dillon 3	3.08	79.38	Average
51	Anderson 3	3.07	79.59	Average
52	Dorchester 4	3.07	87.79	Average
53	Edgefield	3.07	71.84	Average
54	Lexington 2	3.04	77.29	Average
55	Laurens 55	2.98	80.75	Average
56	Colleton	2.96	88.54	Average
57	Cherokee	2.94	78.73	Average
58	Clarendon 2	2.94	91.07	Average
59	Union	2.93	80.40	Average
60	Chester	2.92	81.15	Average
61	Laurens 56	2.87	82.62	Average
62	Orangeburg 4	2.85	84.42	Average
63	Greenwood 51	2.81	82.15	Average
64	Orangeburg 5	2.8	92.16	Average
65	Lexington 4	2.78	85.90	Average
66	Barnwell 19	2.77	94.14	Average
67	Fairfield	2.75	94.47	Average
68	Spartanburg 7	2.75	77.95	Average
69	Orangeburg 3	2.74	94.98	Average
70	McCormick	2.73	92.08	Average
71	Williamsburg	2.73	97.37	Average
72	Marion 1	2.7	91.68	Average
73	Richland 1	2.6	81.72	Below Average
74	Bamberg 2	2.52	97.91	Below Average
75	Lee	2.4	96.96	Below Average
76	Hampton 2	2.33	97.10	Below Average
77	Allendale	2.28	98.20	At Risk
78	Florence 4	2.25	94.99	At Risk
79	Marion 2	2.23	95.17	At Risk
80	Marlboro	2.22	92.77	At Risk
81	SC Public Charter	2.17	68.13	At Risk
82	Barnwell 45	2.16	80.31	At Risk
83	Jasper	2.14	91.01	At Risk
84	Dillon 4	2.06	94.28	At Risk

A Matter of Facts about the State of South Carolina

Annual School and District Report Cards

South Carolina's 2020 Vision:
By the year 2020, all students in South Carolina 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.

Education Accountability Act (EAA): Five Components

- **Academic Standards** – the required knowledge and skills for students in English/language arts, mathematics, science, and social studies.
- **Assessments** – Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) in grades 3-8, High School Assessment Program (HSAP), and end-of-course tests for selected high school courses.
- **Professional Development/Technical Assistance** – teacher training and assistance to low-performing schools.
- **Public Reporting** – the school and district report cards, data to use in decision-making, and program evaluation.
- **Rewards and Intervention** – recognition for schools performing at high levels or with high rates of improvement and intervention for schools that do not improve.

Purposes of the Report Card

- Inform parents and the public about the school's or school district's performance.
- Assist in addressing the strengths and weaknesses within a particular school.
- Recognize schools with high performance and improvement.
- Evaluate and focus resources on schools with low performance.

Contents of the School and District Report Cards

- Executive summary and comprehensive report card to be published for each SC school.
- Executive summaries to be issued to all public schools and school districts no later than November 1 of each year.
- Districts and schools are to provide links to electronic versions of the report cards and notify parents about the cards through regular communication channels.
- Upon request, districts and schools should provide printed copies of the cards to parents.
- Report card results to be provided to the editor of a newspaper of general circulation in the school or district's area.
- Printed in black and white.

Report Card Rating Terms and Definitions

- **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 substantially 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

Application of Ratings

- **Absolute Rating** – the academic achievement of students in the school year upon which the report card is based measured against the target level of performance.
- **Growth Rating** – the level of growth of individually-matched student achievement scores from one year to the next. The Growth rating also reflects reductions in achievement gaps between majority groups and historically underachieving groups of students as well as sustained levels of high achievement.

Sections of the Report Card

- **General information** – the name, location, enrollment, and leadership structure of a school or district, the state's 2020 Vision, and website resources are provided.
- **School/District Ratings** – the Absolute and Growth Ratings, the performance trends over the past four years and a comparison to Schools/Districts With Students Like Ours, which compares schools with similar poverty indexes.
- **Assessment Results** – details of the school's or district's student achievement data by content area and by grade level are provided in tabular form. Student results are disaggregated by student gender, ethnicity, disability status, socioeconomic status, migrant status, and English proficiency status.

- **School/District Profile** – information about the school or district is provided in three categories: students, teachers and school programs and compared to Schools/Districts With Students Like Ours and the State Median.
- **School/District Narrative and Survey Results** – a narrative about the school's or district's accomplishments and its plans to address any barriers to increasing student achievement is provided by the school principal and School Improvement Council or superintendent. Results of surveys of teachers, students and parents evaluating the school/district learning environment, social and physical environment and home-school relations also are provided.

Criteria Used to Calculate School Ratings

- **K-2 Only Schools** – Prime instructional time; pupil-teacher ratio; parent involvement; external accreditation; early-childhood professional development; percentage of teachers with advanced degrees; and the percentage of teachers returning from the previous year.
- **Elementary and Middle Schools with Grades 3-8** – Percentage of students achieving at different levels on the Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS). Results from students in middle schools taking end-of-course tests for high school credit courses will be factored into the ratings of the middle schools they attend.
- **High Schools with Grades 9-12** – First attempt High School Assessment Program (HSAP) results; longitudinal HSAP results; end-of-course test scores; on-time graduation rates; and fifth-year graduation rates
- **Career and Technology Centers** – Percentage of students who master core competencies or certification requirements in center courses; 12th grade graduation rates; and placement rates
- **School Districts** – PASS results; first-attempt HSAP results; longitudinal HSAP results; on-time graduation rates; and fifth-year graduation rates. Also, the results of PASS-ALT, an evaluation of students with significant cognitive disabilities, are included only in the district rating.

Frequently Asked Questions and Answers

Q. What is the difference between school/district ratings and school/district letter grades?

A. School/district ratings were established in 1998 by the state Education Accountability Act (EAA) to communicate a school's overall level of student performance and the progress of individual students over time. Until 2001, when Congress passed the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB), South Carolina had only an independent state accountability system.

Since 2001, there have been both a state and a federal accountability system for evaluating schools and districts in South Carolina. Last year, the U.S. Department of Education allowed states to apply for a waiver under NCLB. South Carolina submitted a waiver that was approved for up to two years. The waiver assigns letter grades to districts and to most public schools. The new system combines absolute achievement and an aspect of growth into one letter grade. The growth used in the new federal system is not based on the progress of individual student scores. Instead, it defines growth as the difference between the average achievement of different groups of students. While most of the data used to compile the ratings and school grades are consistent, there are discrepancies. For example, the high school graduation rates are different under the two federal and state systems due to the availability of data at the time of publication.

Q. How should families respond if their child's school receives a low rating?

A. Parents should observe how their child's school and community respond to areas of concern and how their child is achieving. Parents are integral to the school improvement process. Parents can encourage the school to address concerns, encourage student learning, and make student attendance a priority.

Q. Are ratings considered the same thing as labels? Won't they do more harm than good?

A. Unlike labels, ratings aren't perceived as being permanent. Ratings are simplified statements to help the public better understand the overall level of academic performance of a school or district and can be powerful motivators for change. Positive ratings bring recognition and pride. Lower ratings bring support and technical assistance. South Carolina focuses on continuous improvement.

Q. Why are test scores used to rate schools?

A. Test scores are a uniformly collected result of schooling. Test scores are used in decisions schools make about students' promotion, selection into special programs, admission to post-secondary education and eligibility for scholarships. Emphasis on test scores reflects the primary mission of schools to provide academic competencies.

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