Ratings for High Schools

In 2010-2011 and beyond, the Absolute and Growth Ratings for high schools are calculated on a weighted model using the following criteria: performance on HSAP of students at the school taking the test for the first time, longitudinal High School Assessment Program (HSAP) performance, the percentage of end-of-course tests administered at the school having scores of 70 or above, on-time graduation rate, and 5-year graduation rate.

In August 2010 the EOC adopted recommendations from the High School Working Group that 5-year graduation rates be made a part of the high school ratings, that the point weights from the criteria making up the ratings be centered on 2009 performance, and that the high school Absolute indices should be compared to the ranges of indices used for elementary and middle schools when assigning Absolute ratings. The full report of the High School Working Group can be found online at www.eoc.sc.gov.

Ratings Criteria – High Schools

- **Longitudinal High School Assessment Program (HSAP) performance:** This factor gauges the percentage of students who pass the HSAP by the spring or subsequent summer graduation two years after taking the examination for the first time. Students transferring to other schools should be deleted from the calculation; however students dropping out are included. Longitudinal HSAP performance is the percentage of students who score a "2" level or higher on both ELA and Math within two years after taking it for the first time.

- **First-attempt HSAP performance:** The percentage of students taking the High School Assessment Program (HSAP) for the first time who passed both the English language arts and mathematics subtests by scoring at the performance level of "2" or higher.

- **Percentage passing End-of-Course tests:** The percent of passing scores (70 or higher) on all of the End-of-Course tests administered in the high school during the school year and subsequent summer session. The end-of-course assessments currently include Algebra I, English I, U.S. History and the Constitution, Physical Science, and Biology I when the test becomes operational in Fall 2010. In August 2010, the EOC adopted the following policy regarding End-of-Course test results linked to virtual and dual credit courses: End-of-course test scores linked to virtual and dual credit courses will be excluded from the high school rating calculation.

- **On-time Graduation rate:** The percentage of students (including students with disabilities) enrolled on the 45th day of school of their first enrollment year as a ninth grader who earn a standard high school diploma (not GED), adjusted for transfers in and out of the school. Adjustments for students transferring out of the school or district cannot be made for those students for whom there is not evidence of enrollment in another state diploma granting program (for example, requests for transcripts from another state diploma granting program.) Data from students who meet the state diploma requirements as a result of attending summer school and/or successfully passing HSAP in the summer following their senior year will be included in the calculation of the on-time graduation rate.

- **The 5-year graduation rate** for the current year represents an update to the on-time graduation rate of the students in the previous year's graduating class. For example, if a school had 100 students in the cohort of students in the graduating class of 2010 (the denominator) and 80 of those students received high school diplomas in 2010 (the numerator), its on-time graduation rate would be 80% (e.g., [(80/100)*100]). If 10 of the 20 students in the cohort who did not graduate in 2010 stayed in school and received high school diplomas in 2011, the 2011 5-year graduation rate for the cohort would be 90% (e.g., [((80+10)/100)*100]).

Calculation of Absolute Rating

Ratings are calculated using a mathematical formula that results in an index. The following point distribution is applied to each of the criteria for the calculation of the absolute index (the percentage weighting for each criterion is applied to the calculation of the index):

Table 37
Criteria for High School Ratings for 2010-2011 School Year and Beyond

Criterion	Points Assigned				
	5	4	3	2	1
Longitudinal Exit Exam Passing Rate (20%)	97.0% or more	94.3%–96.9%	84.1%–94.2%	75.9%–84.0%	75.8% or less
First-attempt HSAP Passing Rate (20%)	93.0% or more	83.0%–92.9%	63.1%–82.9%	53.2%–63.0%	53.1% or less
% Scoring 70 or Above on End-of-Course Tests (20%)	75.5% or more	64.3%–75.4%	42.0%–64.2%	30.8%–41.9%	30.7% or less
On-time Graduation Rate (30%)	96.1% or more	84.0%–96.0%	59.6%–83.9%	47.4%–59.5%	47.3% or less
5-year Graduation Rate (10%)	97.0% or more	87.7%-96.9%	62.7%-87.6%	50.3%-62.6%	50.2% or less

The index is calculated using the following formula:

(1) Match the school's data/performance to the points assigned to each rating criterion in the table above.
(2) Add the weighted points for each criterion. Weighted points are calculated by multiplying the assigned points by the weighting factor assigned to each criterion.
(3) Round the sum to the nearest hundredth; this is the High School Absolute rating index.

The resulting index determines the school's Absolute Rating as follows:

Table 38
Index Values for Determining Absolute Ratings

Year	Range of Indices Corresponding to Absolute Rating				
	Excellent	**Good**	**Average**	**Below Average**	**School at Risk**
2010 and beyond	**3.40 and above**	**3.18-3.39**	**2.65-3.17**	**2.32-2.64**	**2.31 or below**

Sample Calculation of an Absolute Rating for a High School (2010-2011 and Beyond)

92% Longitudinal Exit Exam:	(3 X 0.2) = 0.6 points
64% First-attempt HSAP Passing Rate:	(3 X 0.2) = 0.6 points
71% Passing end-of-course tests:	(4 X 0.2) = 0.8 points
70% On-time Graduation Rate:	(3 X 0.3) = 0.9 points
83% 5-year Graduation Rate:	(3 X 0.1) = 0.3 points
	Sum = 3.2 Index
	Absolute Rating: Good

Students who should be tested on HSAP but are not tested will be assigned a weight of zero in the accountability ratings.

Growth Rating

Note: Longitudinal student-matched data are unavailable at the high school level because of the structure of the curriculum and assessments. Therefore, the methodology examines improvement of cohorts of students over time.

The Growth Ratings are calculated using a mathematical formula that results in an index. The index is calculated by subtracting the school's Absolute Rating index from the prior year from the school's current year's Absolute Rating index. The difference determines the rating as follows:

Table 39
High School Growth Rating Criteria

Rating	Growth Index
Excellent	0.4 or greater
Good	0.3
Average	0.1–0.2
Below Average	0.0
School at Risk	-0.1 or less

Sample Calculation of a Growth Rating for a High School

Absolute Rating index for school year for which report card is based:	2.44
Absolute Rating index for the prior school year:	-2.22
Difference:	0.22
Rounds to:	0.2
Growth Rating:	Average

A school's Growth Rating may be increased by one level if the growth in performance of historically underachieving students meets or exceeds a criterion. Historically underachieving groups consist of African-American, Hispanic, and Native American students, Limited English Proficient (LEP) students, migrant students, those eligible for the free or reduced-price federal lunch program, and students with disabilities (excluding students receiving speech services only). The school's eligibility for the increased Growth Rating is determined as follows:

(1) Calculate the growth index for the group of eligible students. The group must consist of 40 or more students to be considered for analysis.
(2) Compare the growth index for the group to the state two-year average growth index for all students in the state. The state two-year average growth index is the average of the growth indices for all students for the current and prior years. If the growth index for the historically underachieving group in the school exceeds the state two-year average growth index by at least one standard deviation, the school's Growth Improvement rating may be increased by one level. If the school is rated Excellent for growth on the basis of all students, the performance for groups also should be calculated and reported even though the school's rating cannot be increased.

Schools with Absolute Ratings of Excellent in Two Subsequent Years

If a school is rated Excellent for absolute achievement for both the current and the previous years, the school will receive a Growth Rating of Good. If the school's growth index for all students is a positive number (i.e., greater than zero), the school's Growth Rating will be elevated to Excellent. The performance growth of the groups also will be reported for these schools. Schools achieving an absolute index of 4.75 or higher for two consecutive years will be awarded an Excellent Growth Rating.