

EIA Program Report for Fiscal Year 2011-12

Coversheet

EIA-Funded Program Name: EAA - Palmetto Gold and Silver

Current Fiscal Year: 2011-12

Current EIA Appropriation: \$2,230,061

Name of Person Completing Survey and to whom EOC members may request additional information:

Ling Gao

Telephone Number:

803-734-4321

E-mail:

lgao@ed.sc.gov

Question 1: History of the program: Please mark the appropriate response (choose one):

This program:

- was an original initiative of the Education Improvement Act of 1984
- was created or implemented as part of the Education Accountability Act of 1998
- has been operational for less than five years
- was funded last fiscal year by general or other funds
- is a new program implemented for the first time in the current fiscal year
- Other

Question 2: What SC laws, including provisos in the current year's general appropriation act, govern the implementation of this program? Please complete citations from the SC Code of Laws including, Title, Chapter, and Section numbers.

Code of Laws:

EDUCATION ACCOUNTABILITY ACT OF 1998
CHAPTER 18
ARTICLE 11 as amended in 2008
(Act 282 of 2008)
S.C. Code Ann. Section 59-18-1100

Proviso(s): (If applicable. Please make references to the 2011-12 General Appropriation Act as ratified. www.XXXXX)

Regulation(s):

Regulation: S.C.Code Ann. Regs. 43-302

Do guidelines that have been approved by the State Board of Education, the Commission on Higher Education or other governor board exist that govern the implementation of this program?

- Yes
- No

Question 3: What are the primary objective(s) or goals of this program? Please distinguish between the long-term mission of the program and the current annual

objectives of the program. (The goals or objectives should be in terms that can be quantified, evaluated, and assessed.)

As part of the state accountability system, the mission of this awards program is to recognize schools for high levels of student academic achievement, high rates of improvement, and for substantial progress in closing the achievement gap between disaggregated groups as stipulates in the Act 282 of 2008 amendment. Schools that received the recognition for Closing the Achievement Gaps were identified according to the criteria developed by EOC which were approved at the December 2009 State Board of Education meeting.

The objectives of the program are 1) the timely and accurate selection of qualifying schools based on the criteria established by the EOC; 2) public recognition through news releases, memos, certificates, letters of commendation, and flags.

Question 4: In the prior fiscal year, 2010-11, what primary program activities or processes were conducted to facilitate the program's performance in reaching the objective(s) as provided in Question 3? What, if any, change in processes or activities are planned for the current year?

Examples of program processes would be: training provided, recruiting efforts made, technical assistance services, monitoring services, etc.

Answers should be specific to the process undertaken at the state level to support the objectives of the program and should be quantifiable. Please include any professional development services provided.

IF the funds are allocated directly to school districts, please indicate any data collected at the state level to monitor how the funds are expended at the local level?

The mission and objective have not changed from prior years. The program provides recognition to schools for high level of student achievement, high rate of growth, and for making substantial progress in closing achievement gaps. Accurate identification of these schools based on the criteria established by EOC for public recognition remains the primary focus.

Schools were publicly recognized through a press release, the posting of their names and type of awards on the State Department of Education's Web site, and their receipt from the Department of an award flag, certificate printed with the school name and award received, and a congratulatory letter from the State Superintendent of Education. However, no award funds were distributed in 2010-11.

The program selected two high-scoring award recipient schools to be featured on the ETV's *In Our Schools* program.

Question 5: In the prior fiscal year, 2010-11, and using the most recent data available, what were the direct products and services (outputs) delivered by this Program?

Examples of program outputs would be: number of teachers attending professional development seminars, number of and passage rates on AP exams, number of students served in the program, improvements in student achievement, retention and graduation.

Public announcement of recipient schools was made on January 15 (elementary and middle schools, state special schools) and March 10 respectively (high schools, career centers). A total of 551 schools received awards. Flags, certificates, and letters of commendation were forwarded to schools as soon as the announcement was made. The attached tables presents the number of schools receiving awards for high levels of achievement or/and high rates of improvement or/and showing substantial results in closing the achievement gaps.

**Distribution of Award Levels for General Performance
and for Closing the Achievement Gap
2009-10 and 2010-11**

| Award for | | Number of Schools (%) | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| | | 2009-10 | 2010-11 |
| General Performance | Closing the Achievement Gap | | |
| Gold | Gold | 38 (9.4) | 41 (7.9) |
| Gold | Silver | 59 (14.6) | 135 (26.1) |
| Silver | Gold | 8 (2.0) | 8 (1.6) |
| Silver | Silver | 48 (11.9) | 64 (12.4) |
| Gold | None | 114 (28.3) | 93 (18.1) |
| Silver | None | 73 (18.1) | 126 (24.4) |
| None | Gold | 20 (5.0) | 19 (3.7) |
| None | Silver | 43 (10.7) | 31 (6.0) |
| Total School Awards by the Program | | 403 | 517 |

Note: Award recipient state special schools (6) and career centers (28) are not included in the table.

Awards Based on General Performance: The criteria for awards for general performance are based on both the absolute and growth ratings and the growth index found on school report cards. Of the state's approximately 1,100 schools, 497 earned either a Palmetto Gold or Palmetto Silver award 297 Gold, 200 Silver.

Awards for Closing the Achievement Gaps: A total of 298 schools earned a Gold or Silver award for closing the achievement gap for at least one historically underachieving group 55 Gold, 243 Silver. This is the third year of implementation of the awards for closing the achievement gaps as part of the Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards program. A technical report was written and presented to describe the performance trends for PASS and on-time graduation rates and how the schools were selected for the awards based on the criteria established by EOC.

A total of 551 schools or career centers were recognized in the 2010-11 Palmetto Gold and Silver Awards Program. More than half of the schools being recognized have a poverty index of 60 percent or more. In an effort to showcase some of the award recipients, a showcase project was organized. As part of the Showcase project, a panel selected the two top-scoring award recipients based on data, and the winners were featured on ETV's In Our Schools program.

Question 6: What are the outcomes or results of this program?

Outcome can be both quantitative and qualitative and should address the program's objectives. Please use the most recent data available:

Examples of outcomes would be: results of surveys, student achievement results, increases in participation, reduction in achievement gaps, loans awarded, textbooks purchased, etc.

The outcomes of the program are 1) the timely and accurate selection of qualifying schools based on the criteria established by EOC; 2) public recognition through news releases, media reports, memos, certificates, letters of commendation, and flags.

In 2010-11, 551 schools or career centers were recognized by the awards program. More than 65 percent of the award recipients were schools with poverty levels of at least 50%, and more than 40 % of the award recipients were schools with poverty levels of 70%.

The awards program encourages schools to strive for excellence and inspires improvement efforts with good results. Two high-scoring schools were selected and featured in the ETV's In Our Schools Program which was broadcasted statewide in the fall.

Due to the short time line, the other part of the Showcase project, School Showcase Summary was not organized. In the year of 2011-12, it is planned that this part of the project will continue.) The Showcase project provides a medium for schools to network and learn about successful programs in their neighboring schools.

No financial awards were distributed to the award recipient schools in 2010-11.

Question 7: Program Evaluations

What was the date of the last external or internal evaluation of this program?

NA

Has an evaluation ever been conducted?

Yes

No

If an evaluation was conducted, what were the results and primary recommendations of the most recent evaluation?

NA

Can you provide a URL link, electronic version, or hard copy of this evaluation to the EOC?

Yes

No

If yes, please provide URL link here.

If no, why not?

NA

Question 8:

While EIA revenues increased in 2010-11 over the prior fiscal year and no mid-year cuts were made to any EIA programs, programs and agencies continue to implement conservative budget practices.

Please describe how the program and/or organization would absorb or offset potential EIA reductions totaling 5%, and 10% in the current fiscal year, Fiscal Year 2011-12?

Question 9:

If no additional EIA revenues were appropriated to this program in Fiscal Year 2012-13 above the current year's appropriation level, how would the objectives, activities and priorities of this program change?

Please be specific to address the impact to students, teachers or schools. Are there regulatory or statutory changes that you would recommend to the legislature that would assist this program/organization in meeting its objectives?

If you want to provide supporting documents or evaluation reports, either reference a website below or email the report directly to mbarton@eoc.sc.gov.