



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%)