SC Education Oversight ASA Subcommittee Meeting

May 19, 2025



Welcome & Approval of ASA Subcommittee Minutes March 17, 2025

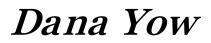
Dr. Patty Tate



Action Item:

SC Tiered Credential System







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- 1. Move away from an equal-weight credential system to a new three-tiered system.
- 2. Allow time for districts and schools to transition to the tiered credential system in School Year 2025-26.
- 3. Employ strategies to engage business and industry partners in credential validation and pathway strengthening.

Focus on "credential currency" – real employment value & aligning credentials with labor market demands and workforce priorities

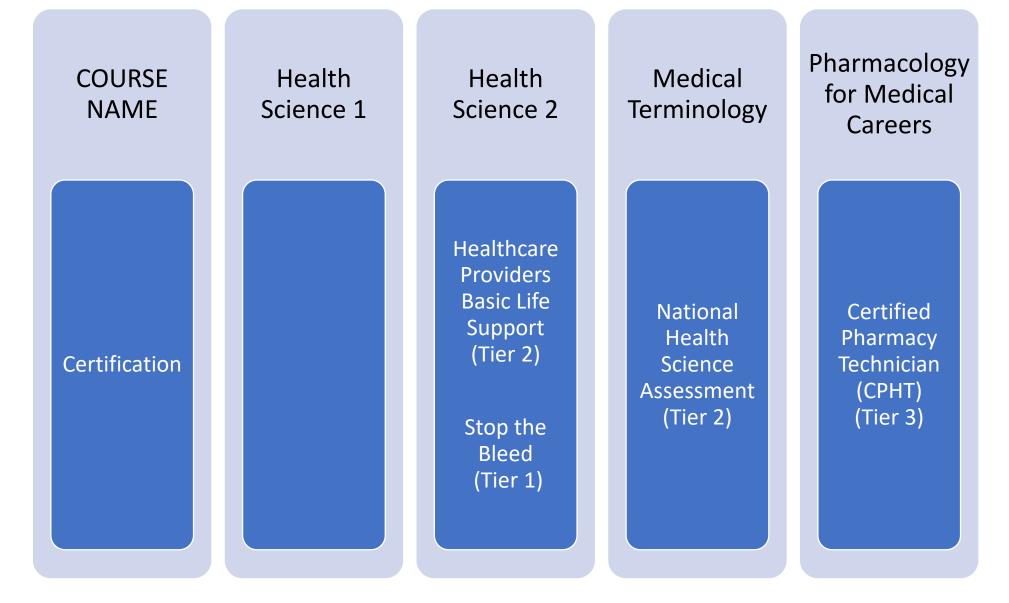
Why Transition to a Tiered System?

- Better Workforce Alignment The tiered system ensures that students earn credentials valued by employers, leading to higher job placement rates, career progression, and wage growth. The tiered credential list will be reviewed and refined annually to ensure alignment with industry expectations.
- **Clearer Credential Differentiation** By categorizing credentials into Introductory (Tier 1), Intermediate (Tier 2), and Career Ready (Tier 3), South Carolina provides transparency about which certifications offer immediate employability, advancement opportunities, and industry recognition.
- **Support for Stackable Credentials** The system encourages students to build upon entry-level certifications to earn higher-level, industry-valued credentials, creating clear career pathways rather than disconnected certifications.
- Stronger Connections Between Education and Industry Employers will play a key role in verifying that credentials provide real hiring advantages. Their direct involvement in credential evaluation strengthens the link between education, workforce readiness, and economic development in South Carolina.

Tier Descriptors

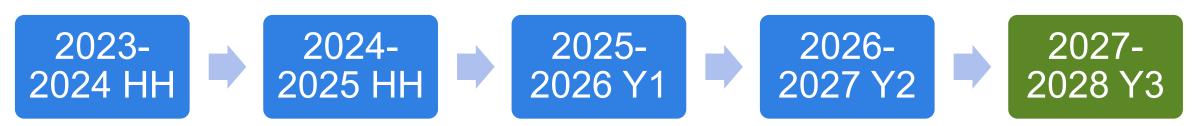
Tier 1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Introductory	Intermediate	Career Ready
 Foundational Skills: Validates basic competencies for further education or training. Regionally Recognized: Accepted by local industries but not a statewide hiring requirement. Early Career Pathway: Earned in the first stages of a CTE program, leading to higher-level credentials. 	 Industry-Aligned: Valued by employers but not always required for hiring. Supports Career Pathways: Provides an employment advantage and job readiness. Enhances Workforce Participation: Increases employability, but additional training may be needed for advancement. 	 High-Demand Careers: Required for employment in priority, high-wage occupations. Clear Economic Benefits: Leads to significant wage gains, promotions, or job retention. Career Advancement: Recognized entry point into further education, training, and certifications.

Health Science Cluster: Pharmacy Tech



Transitioning to the Tiered System

- Beginning with students entering high school in the 2024-2025 school year, career-ready status for CTE completers will be determined by earning a minimum of three points within this system.
- Students entering high school prior to the 2024-2025 school year will meet career-ready status under the current system.



"ALL" or Universal Certifications

	А	В	С	D	E (► N	0	Р	Q	R	S	Т	U
1	Cert ID (SRPG)	CTE Certification	Tier	Currently CR Approved	Year Added	Certs Admin FY22 (51,720)		Certs Admin FY23 (64,212)				Total Earned since 2018	Comments
2	427	Career and Life Essentials	1	Yes	2021					302	252	302	
3	583	Critical Career Skills: Professional Communication	1	No	2025							Ð	
4	A78	Express Employment Professionals Career Preparedness Certification	1	No	2017	55	52	7	7	75	42	202	
5	262	FAA Part 107 UAV License	1	No	2019	63	47	77	52	77	65	230	
6	430	Leadership Essentials	1	Yes	2021					25	11	25	
7	A94	Microburst EmployABILITY Soft Skills Certification	1	Yes	2017	8,655	7,542	9,599	8,474	10325	9254	40,478	
8	63	OSHA 10 General	1	Yes	2010	12,644	11,914	13,596	12,858	17745	16662	63,164	
9	425	Skills USA Career Essentials Certification	1	Yes	2020					4	4	4	
1 0	429	Soft Skills Pro-Industry Certificaion	1	Yes	2021			24	24	410	353	434	

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Updated Tiered List

	Α	В	С	D	E	F	G	н	I	▶ R	S	Т	U	V	W	х
1	Clstr 1 \Xi	Clstr 2 \Xi	Clstr 3 \Xi	Clstr 4 \Xi	Cert ID ÷ (SRPG)	CTE Certification -	Tier =	Currently CR = Approved	Year Added	Certs Admin FY22 (51,720)	Certs Passed FY22 (46,714)	Certs Admin FY23 (64,212)	Certs Passed FY23 (56,764)	Certs Admin FY24 (84,519)	Certs Passed FY24 (74,238)	Total Earned = since 2018
6	EDU	HUM			A64	Advanced Child Care Training	1	Yes	2015	6	6			1	1	15
7	EDU	HUM			385	YouScience Industry Certification: Child Development	2	No	2021	10	10	4	4	15	8	29
8	HUM				448	Barbicide Certification	2	No	2021	222	222	307	307	588	588	1117
9	ART	IT			463	Adobe Certified Professional Visual Design Specialist (ACP-VDS)	2	Yes	2021	10	10					10
10	HUM				469	School Mental Health Certification	2	No	2022			0	0			θ
11	HUM				470	Student Mental Health and Suicide Prevention	2	No	2022			158	146	157	132	315
12	HUM	HLTH			471	Teen Mental Health First Aid (tMHFA)	2	No	2022			θ	θ			θ
13	HUM	ART			509	Autodesk Certified Professional in Revit for Mechanical Design	2	No	2023							θ
14	HOSP	HUM	BUS		537	YouScience Industry Certification: Entrepreneurship	2	No	2023					5	5	5
15	HLTH	HUM			264	Sports Nutrition Certificate	2	No	2019	303	302	0	0	2	2	572
16	HLTH	EDU	HUM	LAW	418	First Aid	2	No	2021	159	159	12	12	6	6	205
17	HLTH	HUM	EDU	LAW	44	First Aid/CPR/AED	2	No	2010 or earlier	2,929	2,923	202	201	119	118	14,069
18	ART	HUM			80	Adobe Certified Professional (ACP) – Visual Design using Photoshop	2	Yes	2011	330	266			12	6	1297
19	HUM				A27	South Carolina Hair Braiding Registration	2	Yes	2013	57	57	66	66	112	112	375
20	ART	BUS	HUM		A39	Adobe Certified Professional (ACP) Print & Digital Media Publication with	2	Yes	2014	23	22					358
21	ART	BUS	HUM		A40	Adobe Certified Professional (ACP) Graphic Design & Illustration with Adobe	2	Yes	2014	150	107			6	5	436
22	HUM				A72	S/P2 – Cosmetology	2	No	2016	48	48	76	76	41	41	300
23	EDU				267	SC 15-Hour Health and Safety Pre-Service Certificate	3	Yes	2019	142	122	25	19	37	37	315
24	HUM				39	South Carolina Cosmetology License	3	Yes	2010 or earlier	326	311	349	294	458	394	2314
25	HUM				55	South Carolina Nail Technician License	3	Yes	2010 or earlier	29	29	38	38	31	30	290
26	HUM				66	Broad Field Family and Consumer Sciences	3	Yes	2010	24	19	49	30	67	38	146
27	HUM				68	Personal and Family Finance	3	Yes	2010	1	1	1	1	3	2	7
28	ART	HUM			72	Fashion, Textiles, and Apparel	3	Yes	2010	1	1					8
29	ART	HUM			73	Interior Design Fundamentals	3	Yes	2011	1	0					9
30	HUM				74	Nutrition, Food, and Wellness	3	Yes	2010	1	1	0	0	3	2	14
31	HOSP	HUM	STEM		A15	ServSafe [®] Manager	3	Yes	2012	368	246	3	2	3	1	1,170
32	HUM				A26	South Carolina Registered Barber License	3	Yes	2013	6	6	5	2			28
33	HUM				A28	South Carolina Esthetician License	3	Yes	2013	23	23	25	23	34	34	130
34	HUM				A42	South Carolina Master Hair Care License	3	Yes	2014			9	5	14	6	30
35	AGR	HUM	STEM	HOSP	A79	AMSA Food Safety and Science Certification	3	Yes	2017	4	4	0	0			13
36	Total Certs				33	Total Certifications Admiistered and Earned for the Cluster				4892	4614	1,796	1,668	2,394	2,572	



Earning Points in the Tiered System

Under the new tiered credential system, students must earn <u>at least three points</u> through one of the following combinations:

- One Tier 3 credential aligned with their career cluster.
- A combination of one Tier 2 and one Tier 1 credential within the same career pathway.
- A Universal Credential (e.g., OSHA 10) paired with a Tier 2 or higher credential within the student's career cluster.



Addressing Universal Credentials

Universal credentials are certifications that demonstrate foundational workplace skills applicable across multiple industries. These credentials validate essential employability skills, technical knowledge, or safety competencies that enhance a student's workforce readiness regardless of their chosen career path.

Examples of universal credentials include:

- Workplace Readiness & Soft Skills: Microburst EmployABILITY, Career and Life Essentials, Leadership Essentials.
- Safety & Technical Certifications: OSHA 10, FAA Part 107 UAV License.
- Business & Technology Readiness: Express Employment Professionals Business Office Technology.

Universal credentials may fulfill the career-ready requirement when paired with a Tier 2 or Tier 3 credential in the student's career cluster.

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Clarification Notes

- A bundle of Tier 1 credentials will not be considered career-ready.
- Only credentials from the state's approved list will count toward career-ready status in the accountability system.
- To be considered career-ready, a student's earned credentials must align with their designated program of study and career cluster. Credentials earned outside of the student's career cluster or program of study will not count toward career-ready status.



Future Credential Review Process

- Application Submission School districts and CTE centers submit applications to the SC Department of Education (SCDE) with employer documentation verifying the credential's employment value.
- 2. Three-Step Evaluation Process:
 - **SCDE Screening:** Ensures alignment with academic, technical, and workplace standards, plus links to postsecondary programs or apprenticeships.
 - SC Department of Employment & Workforce (SCDEW) Review: Confirms industry relevance and assesses if the credential leads to stable, living-wage employment.
 - **Industry Review:** Employers verify hiring advantages, career progression potential, and recommend tier placement, especially for stackable credentials.



Technical Advisory Committees by Career Cluster Area

Ensure Alignment – TACs will bridge high school career pathways, postsecondary education, and workforce needs across South Carolina's 16 Career Clusters.

Provide Industry Expertise – Members will advise state agencies on labor market demands, essential skills, and credentials needed for in-demand jobs.

Diverse Membership – TACs will include business and industry experts (51% of members), postsecondary instructors, CTE directors and teachers, and workforce agency representatives.

Credential Review & Program Improvement – This fall, TACs will virtually evaluate high school CTE credentials, ensuring alignment with workforce needs and the new tiered credential system.

Ongoing Workforce Engagement – TACs will meet quarterly to refine program offerings, strengthen career pathways, and expand workbased learning opportunities.



Final Approval Process

Annual EOC Submission and Final Review

October 1

Credential submission window closes. All tier placements and TAC recommendations must be finalized.

- List comes to EOC from the SCDE.
- ASA Subcommittee to review and vote on the list and send on to full EOC for final approval.
- All updates need to be integrated into PowerSchool by March 1

ASA Subcommittee

November

Full EOC December

Action Item: Evaluation of Biology I, Spring 2024 End-of-Course Exam

Dr. Matthew Lavery, EOC Deputy Director



Legislative Mandate

- §59-18-320.(A): After the first statewide field test of the assessment program in each of the four academic areas, and after the field tests of the end of course assessments of high school credit courses, the Education Oversight Committee, established in Section 59-6-10, will review the state assessment program and the course assessments for alignment with the state standards, level of difficulty and validity, and for the ability to differentiate levels of achievement, and will make recommendations for needed changes, if any.
- §59-18-355.(B): A revision to an assessment recommended pursuant to Section 59-18-350(A), as well as a new assessment or a change in a current assessment that the State Board of Education otherwise considers for approval as an accountability measure, may not be adopted and implemented without the advice and consent of the Education Oversight Committee.

South Carolina End-of-Course Examination Program

EVALUATION OF BIOLOGY 1

SPRING 2024 TEST DATA





Review & Evaluation Process

- Conducted by K-12 Assessments Solutions at the University of Georgia in collaboration with South Carolina Department of Education (SCDOE) and Data Recognition Corporation (DRC).
- Review based on Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (AERA/APA/NCME).
- Review included blueprint analysis, content alignment, DOK review, psychometric evaluation, and performance classification analysis.
- Subject Matter Experts reviewed all items for standard alignment and cognitive rigor.
- Psychometric evaluation included a review of Classical Test Theory (CTT), Rasch, dimensionality, reliability, and differential item functioning (DIF).
- Recommendations support improved alignment, rigor, and classification reliability.

Test Blueprint

- The EOCEP Biology 1 test blueprint reflects a subset of 2021 SC standards with generally balanced coverage.
- The test is appropriately more weighted at DOK Level 2, emphasizing conceptual understanding and problem-solving.
- Terminology and categorization slightly differ between the blueprint and curriculum and could be refined for clarity.
- Recommendations:
 - Add standards (e.g., B-LS2-2, B-LS2-3, B-LS2-4) to further improve balance across all reporting categories.
 - Increase DOK Level 3 items to improve assessment of higher-order skills.



Item Validity and Alignment

- Most items align with the standards and intended DOK.
- 4 items flagged for aligning to standards not included in the test blueprint or Printable Biology 1 Standards.
- 2 items flagged for content alignment (aligned to the DCI but not the SEP) and 4 items flagged for DOK classification.
- Recommendation:
 - Revise or reclassify flagged items and consider updating blueprint to reflect the full standard set.



Psychometric Quality & Fairness

- CTT and Rasch analyses indicate high-quality items and appropriate difficulty.
- Cronbach's alpha: 0.92 (fall and spring) indicates strong reliability.
- PCA supports unidimensionality; item fit statistics are generally strong.
- DIF analysis: 98% of item comparisons show no/negligible bias.
- Recommendations:
 - Continue monitoring fairness.
 - Consider more flexible IRT models.
 - Consider CFA for internal structure validation.

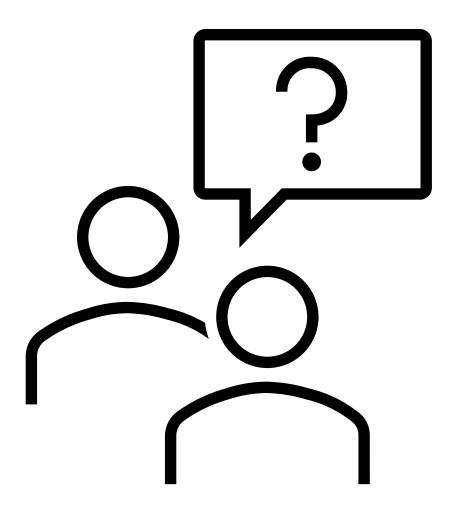


Performance Level Classification

- 4 performance levels set via standard setting; align with A–F letter grades.
- Wide SEMs around cut scores limit reliability of fine-grained classification.
- Two-level decisions (e.g., pass/fail) more defensible than four-level distinctions.
- Recommendations:
 - Add items near cut scores.
 - Explore classification-supportive models (e.g., cognitive diagnosis models).



Questions





Information Item: Educational **Performance of Military-Connected** Children In South Carolina, **2025 Report**

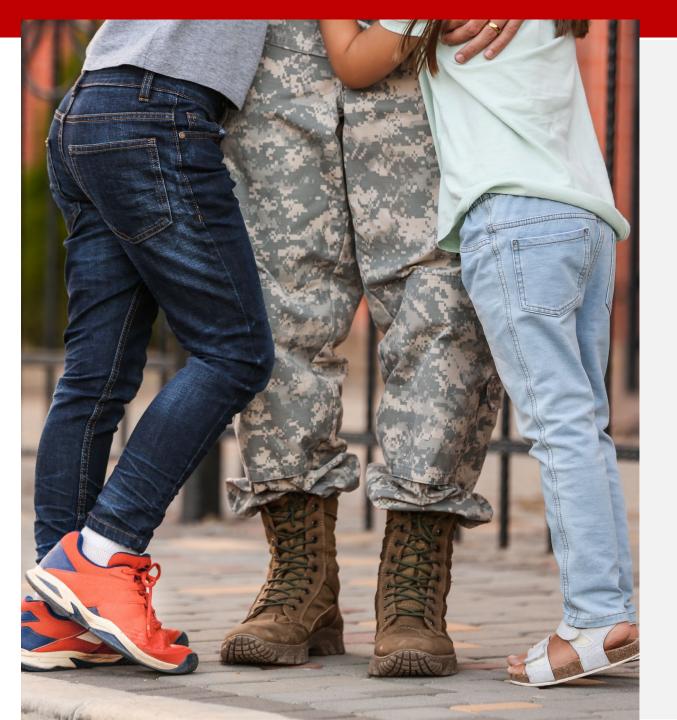


Dana Yow, EOC Executive Director



EOC "is directed to establish a comprehensive annual report concerning the performance of militaryconnected children who attend primary, elementary, middle, and high schools in this State"

Act 289, the Military Family Quality of Life Enhancement Act



Background

Requirement of Act 289, the Military Family Quality of Life Enhancement Act

- Passed in 2014 by the SC General Assembly
- "To enhance quality of life issues for members of the armed forces"
- Part V requires the EOC develop a report on the educational performance of militaryconnected children

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- Demographics details of military-connected students in SC from SY2023-24.
- Overview of the data collection and reporting at the State level related to military-connected students.
- An update on the academic performance and school attendance of military-connected students;
- Existing structures and support for military- connected students in the State; and
- Findings and recommendations

Federal Requirement for State Collection of MCS

- The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) recognized militaryconnected students as a district subgroup for reporting purposes
- Beginning in SY2017-18, LEAs were required to identify MCS
- Purpose: To evaluate the specific educational needs and the effectiveness of the programs serving military-connected students
- Typically, districts conduct a survey of parents and guardians, this information is then entered into PowerSchool (State SIS)

Military-Connected Students

When the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) was reauthorized in late 2015, as the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), militaryconnected students were recognized as a district subgroup for reporting purposes. Beginning in school year 2017-18, local education agencies (LEAs) were required to identify "students with status as a student with a parent who is a member of the armed forces on active duty or serves on full-time National Guard duty."



Table 4: Population of Military-Connected Students in South Carolina by School Year, as collected in the current SC Student Information System (SIS)

	SY 2021-22		SY 20	22-23	SY 2023-24	
MILITARY CONNECTION	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
National Guard, Not Deployed (01)	3,256	17.5%	3,311	16.4%	3,376	16.5%
Reserves, Not Deployed (02)	2,257	12.1%	2,748	13.6%	2,968	14.5%
National Guard, Active Deployment (03)	502	2.7%	583	2.9%	593	2.9%
Reserves, Active Deployment (04)	420	2.3%	360	1.8%	326	1.6%
Active Duty Military, Not Deployed (05)	9,465	50.8%	10,778	53.3%	10,859	53.1%
Active Duty Military, Deployed (06)	1,117	6.0%	1,134	5.6%	1,122	5.5%
Active Duty Military, Deceased in last year (07)	188	1.0%	176	.87%	183	.89%
Active Duty Military, Wounded in last year (08)	1,430	7.7%	1,131	5.6%	1,041	5.1%
GRAND TOTAL:	18,635	100%	20,221	100%	20,468	100.0%

Source: SC Department of Education, data reported to EOC; 180 day data collection

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Grade Level Span	Count (% of MCS population)
K-5 th grade	4,670 (22.8%)
6 th -8 th grade	9,762 (47.7%)
9 th -12 th grade	6,036 (29.5%)

Based on data collected in State Student SIS, 180 day enrollment

Race	Count	% of MCS
American Indian or Alaska Native	54	.3%
Asian	251	1.2%
Black or African American	5,795	28.3%
Hispanic or Latino	2,913	14.2%
Multiracial	1,733	8.5%
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	61	.3%
White	9,654	47.2%

	MCS	Non-MCS
Characteristics and Demographics	Number and % of Military-Connected Student Population	Number and % of Non- Military-Connected Student Population
American Indian or Alaska Native	54 (.3%)	2,341 (.3%)
Asian	251 (1.2%)	14,737 (1.9%)
Black or African American	5,795 (28.3%)	238,886 (30.9%)
Hispanic or Latino	2,913 (14.2%)	107,620 (13.9%)
Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander	61 (.30%)	919 (.12%)
White	9,654 (47.2%)	363,486 (47.0%)
Multiracial	1,733 (8.5%)	45,945 (5.9%)

Based on data collected in State Student SIS, 180 day enrollment

Table 5: Districts with the Largest Reported Percentage of Military Connected Students, SY 2023-24

	SY 2023-24					
School District	Number of MCS in District	Percent of District Population identified as Military-Connected				
Richland 2	3,780	13.1%				
Kershaw	1,062	9.5%				
Sumter	943	6.6%				
Dorchester 2	1,738	6.5%				
Horry	2,311	4.8%				
Beaufort	935	4.3%				
Florence 1	660	4.1%				
Berkeley	1,619	4.1%				
Lexington 1	942	3.5%				
Anderson 1	359	3.3%				

 Of the 20,468 militaryconnected students reported by school districts to SCDE in school year 2023-24, approximately 70 percent of the students attended one of the ten school districts listed in Table 5.

 Twenty-five school districts report NO militaryconnected students des pite ESSA requirement to report (up from 15 last year)

Table 6: Districts Reporting NO Military Connected Students, SY 2023-24

No MCS Reported in SY 2023-24						
Anderson 5	Dorchester 4	Lee				
Bamberg 3	Florence 5	Marion 10				
Barnwell 48	Greenwood 51	Spartanburg 4				
Calhoun	Greenwood 52	Spartanburg 6				
Chester	Jasper	Spartanburg 7				
Dillon 3	Laurens 55					

 Seventeen school districts report
 ZERO militaryconnected students
 despite ESSA requirement to report



Academic Performance of MCS

The performance of MCS in SC *exceeds* the performance of non-MCS

Kindergarten Readiness Exam (KRA) : % Demonstrating Readiness in Performance Level Category						
Military-Connected Students	Non- Military-Connected Students					
679 (49.4%)	20,983 (40.4%)					

- In SC READY Math, military-connected students more frequently scored Meets or Exceeds Expectations (51.18% combined) than their non-military-connected peers (41.94%).
- In ELA, 35.78% military-connected students scored Exceeds Expectations, markedly higher than the 28.49% among non-military-connected students.
- Conversely, fewer military-connected students fall into the lowest category (14.93%) compared to non-military-connected students (23.47%).

The performance of MCS in SC *exceeds* the performance of non-MCS

Table 9: SY 2023-24 EDCEP Scores/Passage Rate by Military-Connected Students (MCS) and Non-MCS

	Military-	Non-MCS Statewide						
School Year	Number of MCS	Mean Score	% Passing (A, B, or C)	Mean Score	% Passing (A, B, or C)			
	Algebra I							
2023-24	2023-24 1,611		62.2%	70.7	51.5%			
		English 2	2					
2023-24	1,601	81.7	78.8%	78.0	70.1%			
		Biology	[
2023-24	1,557	73.4	57.5%	69.2	47.8%			
	U.S. History and the Constitution							
2023-24	1,365	72.4	53.3%	67.9	44.8%			

On-time Graduation Rate

School Year	MCS	Non-MCS
	On-time Graduation Rate	On-time Graduation Rate
SY 2023-24	94.3%	87.2%
SY 2022-23	93.2%	83.9%
SY 2021-22	94.3%	83.9%
SY 2020-21	91.4%	83.2%
SY 2019-20	90.8%	82.0%
SY 2018-19	86.9%	81.1%

Attendance

Attendance Category	Military-Connected Students Number (% among MCS)	Non-Military-Connected Students Number (% among non-MCS)
Perfect (0% absent)	913 (4.5%)	43,596 (5.6%)
Excellent (<5% absent)	9,650 (47.2%)	316,080 (40.9%)
Good (5–10% absent)	6,658 (32.5%)	246,564 (31.9%)
Chronically Absent (10–15% absent)	2,009 (9.8%)	89,113 (11.5%)
Very Chronically Absent (15–20% absent)	612 (3.0%)	34,570 (4.5%)
Extremely Chronically Absent (≥20% absent)	620 (3.0%)	43,545 (5.6%)
TOTAL	20,462	773,468

Recommendations

- SC school districts should require the collection of these data during school enrollment procedures and the data should be populated into the Student Information System.
- In collaboration with the SC Dept of Veterans Affairs, include a data visualization including data related to this report on dashboardSC.sc.gov, the EOC's Education Data Dashboard (work underway currently.)
- Address the recommendations of the SC K-12 Military Readiness Task Force, adopted in June 2024

Information Item: EIA Budget Update

Dr. Rainey Knight, Director of Strategic Innovation



Questions?

Information Item: Retreat Update

Dana Yow



2025 Retreat Update

- August 10-11, 2025
- Beaufort, SC
- Meeting Site: Beaufort Memorial Hospital
- Lodging: Best Western, Downtown Beaufort



Adjournment

