
SC Education Oversight ASA Subcommittee Meeting

November 18, 2024

Approval of
ASA Subcommittee Minutes
September 16, 2024

Dr. Patty Tate



**SC EDUCATION
OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**

Reporting facts. Measuring change. Promoting progress.

Information Item: Report on SC High School Students Focus Groups on Attendance

Tenell Felder, EOC Communications Manager



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Chronic Absenteeism Focus Group Study

“South Carolina mirrored national trends showing a significant increase in chronic absenteeism rates after the COVID pandemic from 13% in 2019 to 25% during the 2022-23 school year.”

Why this study?

- Chronic Absenteeism rates have significantly increased
- Chronic Absenteeism negatively impacts student achievement
 - 2023-24 SC READY Math C.A. stats
 - 2023-24 SC READY ELA C.A. stats

Timeline



SEEKING FOCUS GROUP PARTICIPANTS

If your child is a rising high school Junior or Senior at a South Carolina public school, they qualify to participate in a study on what students think about school attendance.

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CLICK ON THE LINK IN THE POST FOR MORE INFORMATION

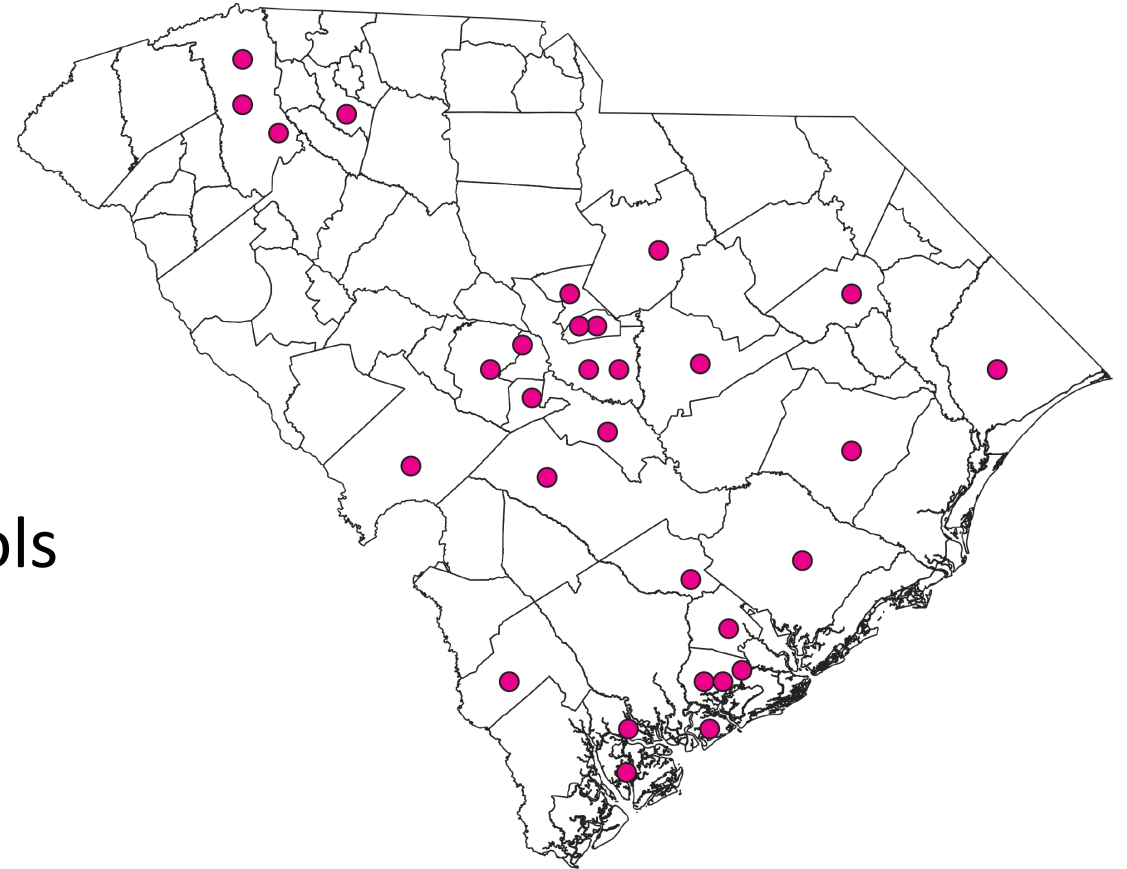
- **April 19, 2024** – Melanie Barton convenes Chronic Absenteeism meeting at governor’s office
- **June 2024** – EOC asked to do C.A. focus group
- **July/August 2024** – EOC sends out C.A. parent survey
- **September 2024** – EOC commissions Midlands Market Research
- **October 2024** – Communities in Schools SC helps to recruit students/ Focus groups carried out

Methodology

“Three online focus groups were conducted ... on October 29 and 30, 2024. Among the 26 students who participated, seven missed 18 or more days of school last year and an additional four missed between 10 and 17 days.”

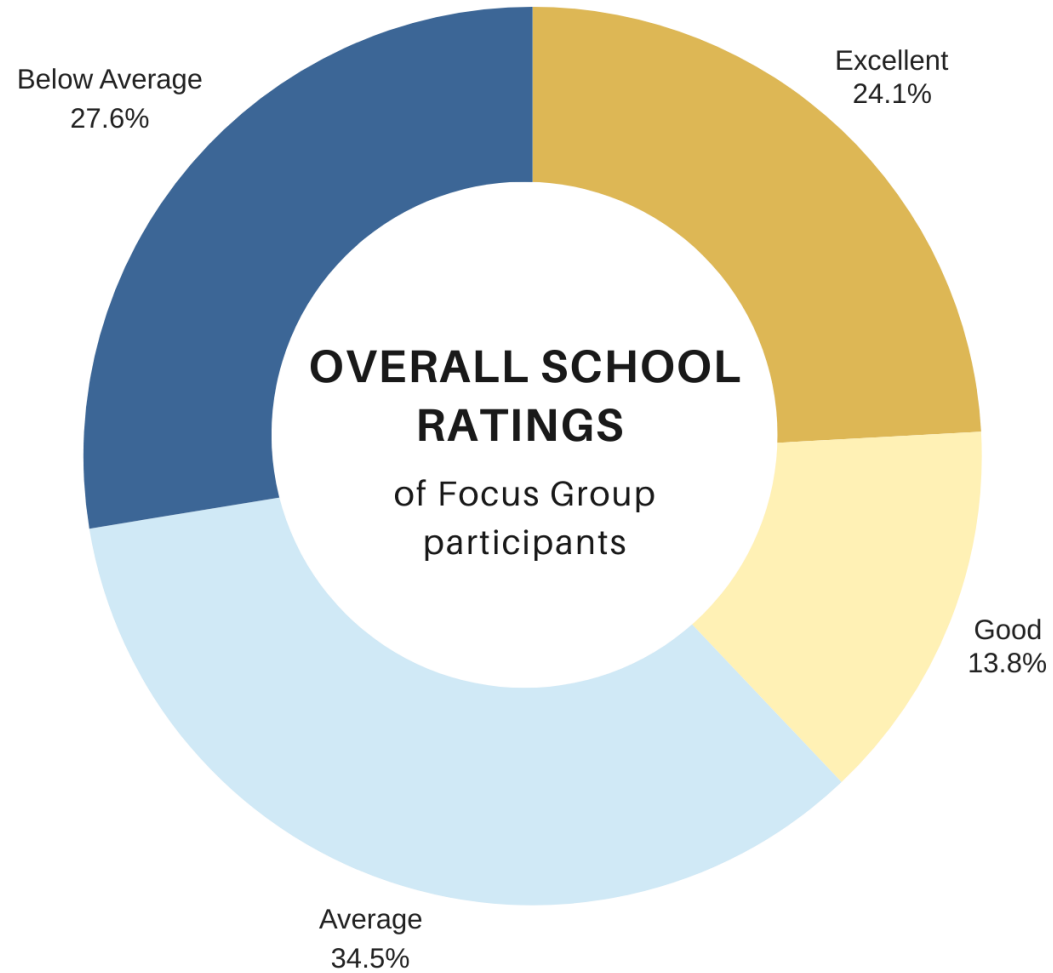
3 Focus Groups

- 26 Public High School Students (9th-12th)
 - 51% W, 47% B, 2% H
- >29 Schools





Methodology



Chronically absent: Any student in grade K-12 who misses 50 percent or more of the instructional day, for any reason, for 10 percent (or more) of the enrollment period. Includes Excused Absences, Unexcused Absences and Suspensions – SC Dept. of Education

Study Findings – preliminary questions

Sense of Community

Does your school have a sense of community?
Do you feel like a part of that community?

*“We have our student council, so they usually try to emphasize high school schoolwide participation with things like Spirit Week and all that. But it's definitely like, if you participate in that, then I guess you would consider yourself a part of a community. But for a lot of people that either can't do stuff like that or don't really see the fun in stuff like that, it can feel a little off at times. And then there's all the sports and things, so there's different branches of community at our school, but it's like, **I wouldn't say there's an overarching community.**”*

🔍 Study Findings – preliminary questions

Attendance Do you think you need to go to school every day during the week?

*“I don't think that we need to go to school five days a week because **we don't even have most of our teachers**”*

*“My sister and I are both given **opportunities to skip school.**”*

*“I can really stay at school, go home, do whatever, as long **as I'm getting my work turned in.**”*

*“And I also take AP classes and honor classes like [name] mentioned and I **don't think I could do most of the stuff that I do at school at home right now.**”*

*“most of my teachers, they post copies of everything online and a lot of our work is online. So, I feel like since it's online, if you miss a day of school, **it's going to be easy for you to still redo all that work.**”*

🔍 Study Findings – preliminary questions

Chronic Absenteeism Do you know what Chronic Absenteeism means?

“I guess maybe past the **20 - 30 day mark** you’re really considered a chronic absentee.”

*“I know **10 days** in a row is truant, so I would guess probably **around that number or higher.**”*

*“I think it's **15 days. Unexcused?**”*



Study Findings – Reasons for Chronic Absenteeism

Lack of Consequences

Safety/School Environment

Mental Health

Teachers

Transportation

Apathy

Physical Health Problems/ Family Health Problems

▶▶ Conclusion/Next Steps

- Study Takeaways
- Further investigation
 - Speak with parents
 - Speak with middle school students

2024 School Report Card Release

While this year's on-time graduation rate remains high at 85%, only 30% of those same SC graduates were college and career ready. Graduation Rate alone is not an adequate measure of success; we also must ensure that South Carolina students are sufficiently prepared for life after high school -- rather than be a career, military or college.

-- April Allen, EOC Chair



Dana Yow



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Revisions of Note impacting the 2024 Report Cards

- 2024 Report Cards marked the first year of full implementation of the Added-Value Growth Model (AVGM) for the Student Progress indicator
- The First Year On Track to Graduate (1YOTG) metric and the Five-Year Student Success Rate (5YSSR) metric were scored this year in the new **HS Student Success indicator**.
- Twelfth grade students removed from School Climate Indicator calculation
- The Preparing for Success indicator was not calculated or reported on 2024 Report Cards for Elementary or Middle Schools. The Rating Points associated with the Preparing for Success indicator for Elementary and Middle Schools were reallocated to weight of the Academic Achievement and Student Progress indicators.

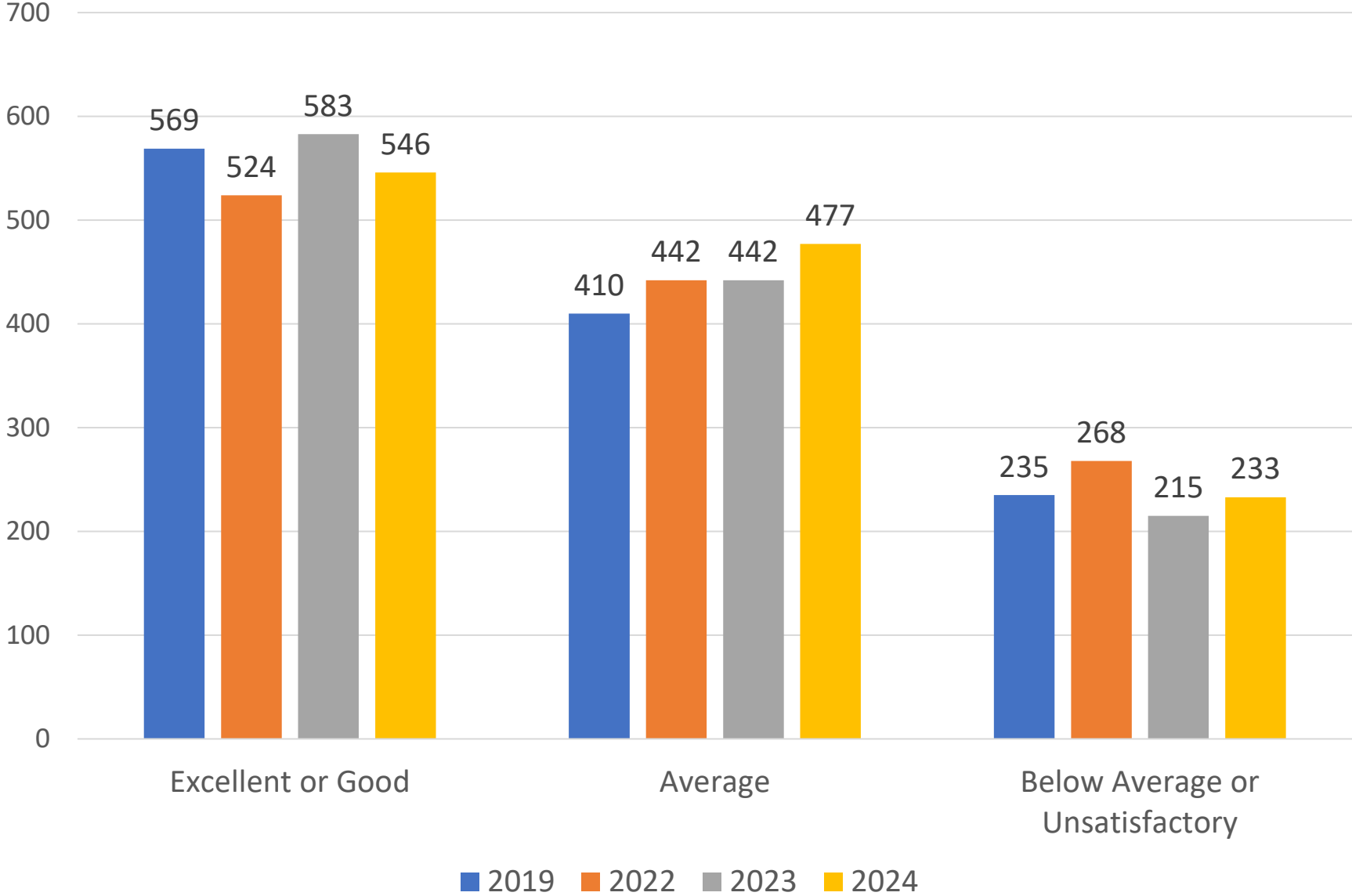
Breakdown of Points in System

Available Rating Points for Schools by School Type

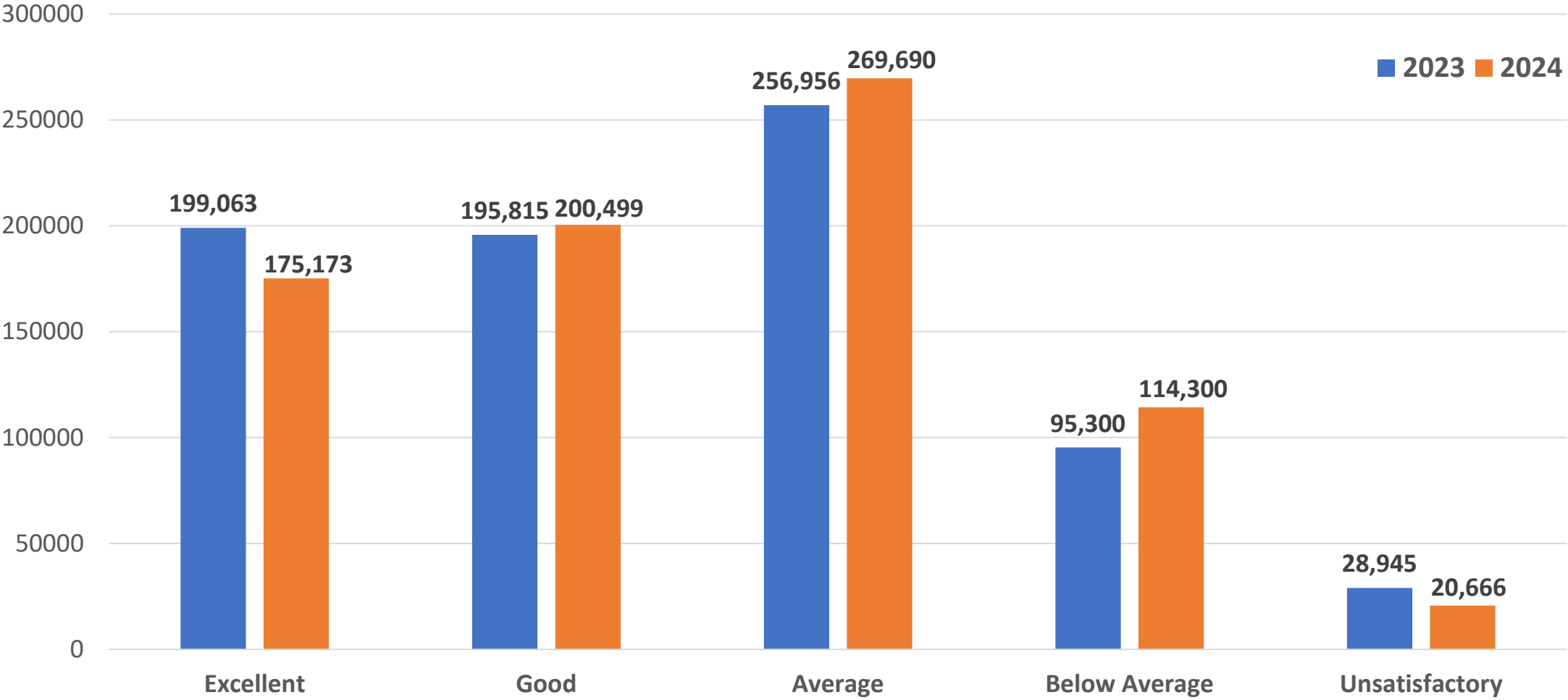
Indicator	Elementary / Middle Schools	High Schools
Academic Achievement	35	25
Student Progress	35	—
Preparing for Success	10	10
School Climate	10	5
Multilingual Learners' Progress	10	10
Graduation Rate	—	19
High School Student Success	—	12
College & Career Readiness	—	19
Total:	100	100

Note: — = Not applicable.

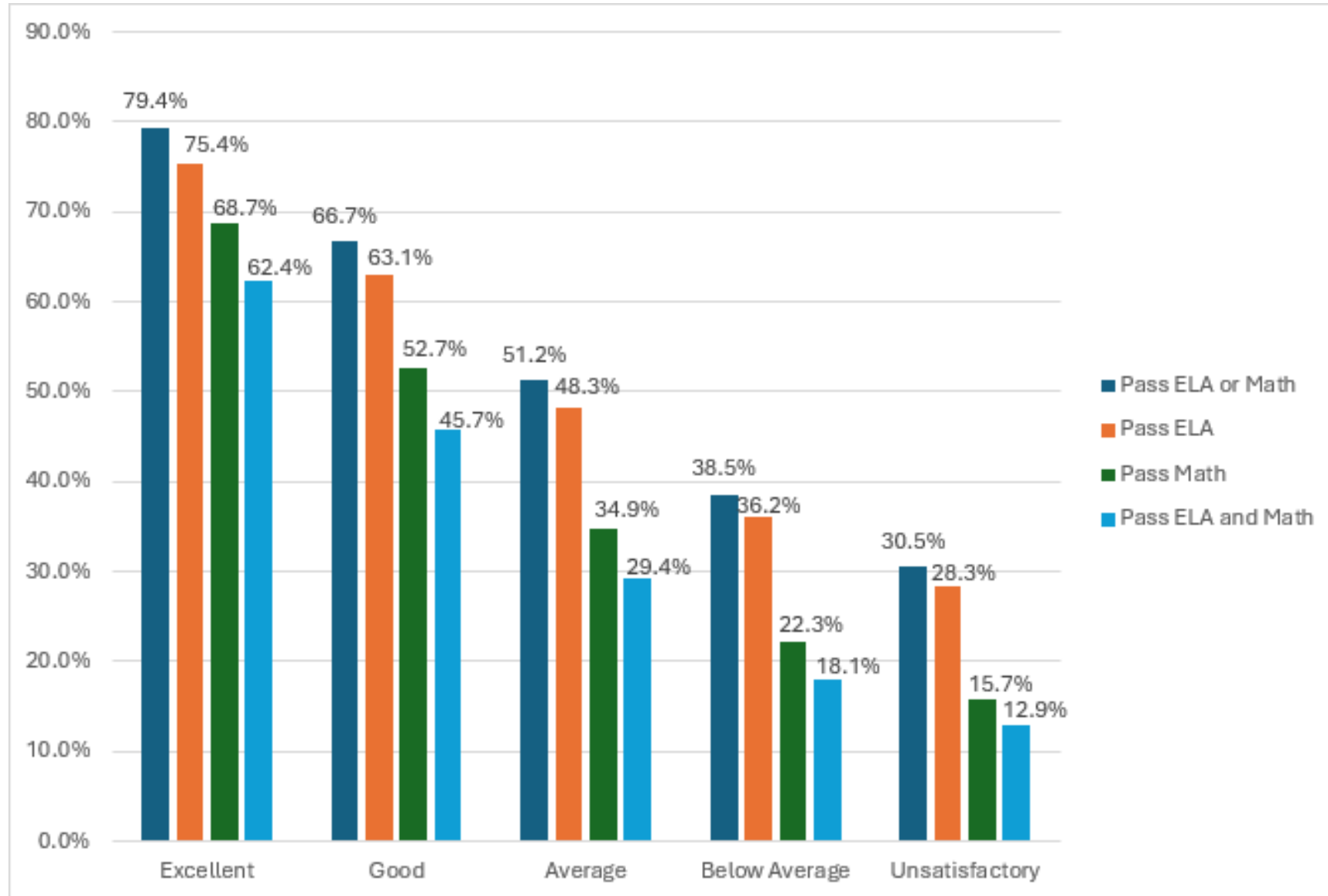
Number of Report Cards by Overall School Rating, 2019-2024



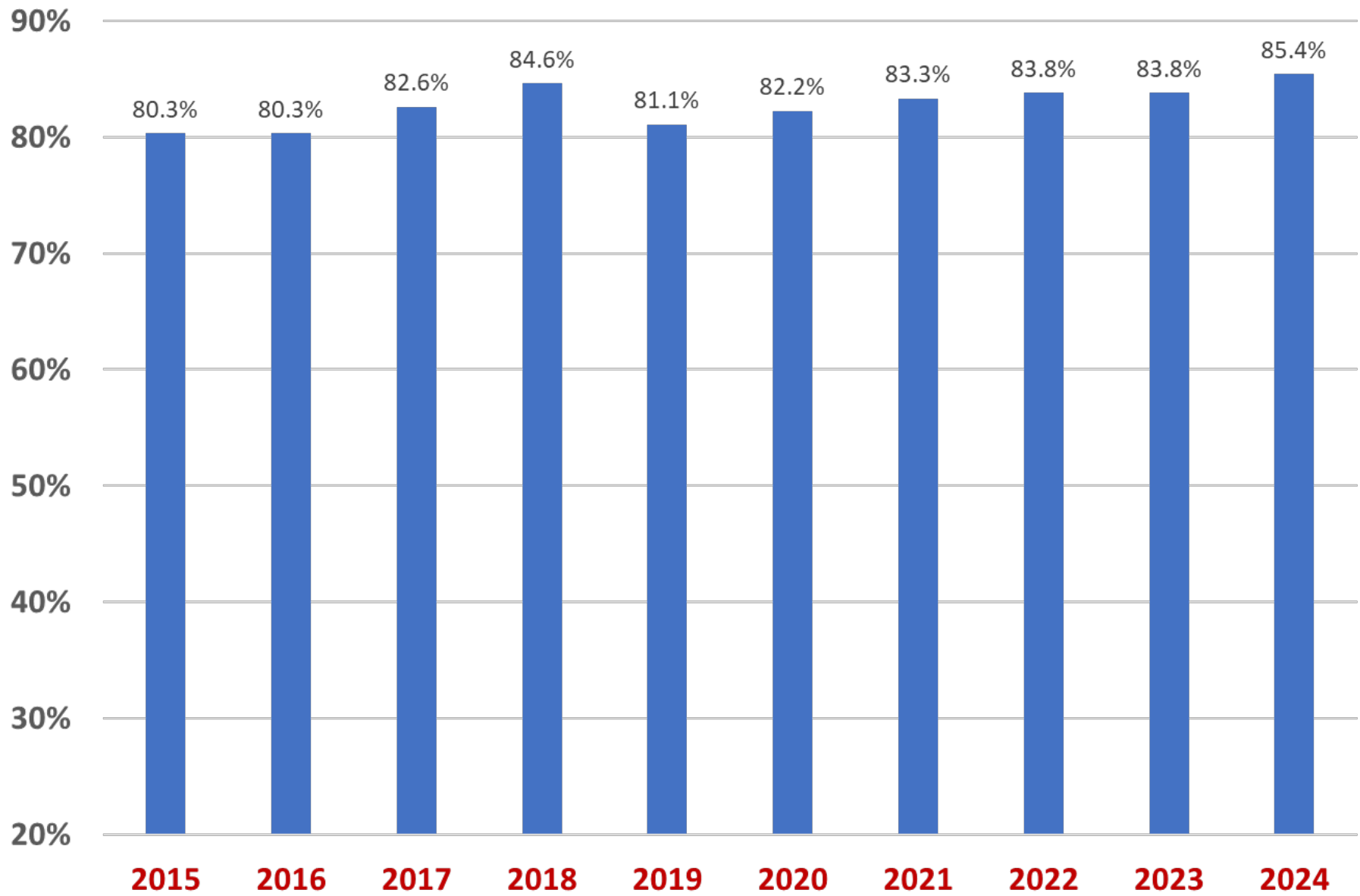
Students Enrolled in SC Schools by Overall Rating, 2024



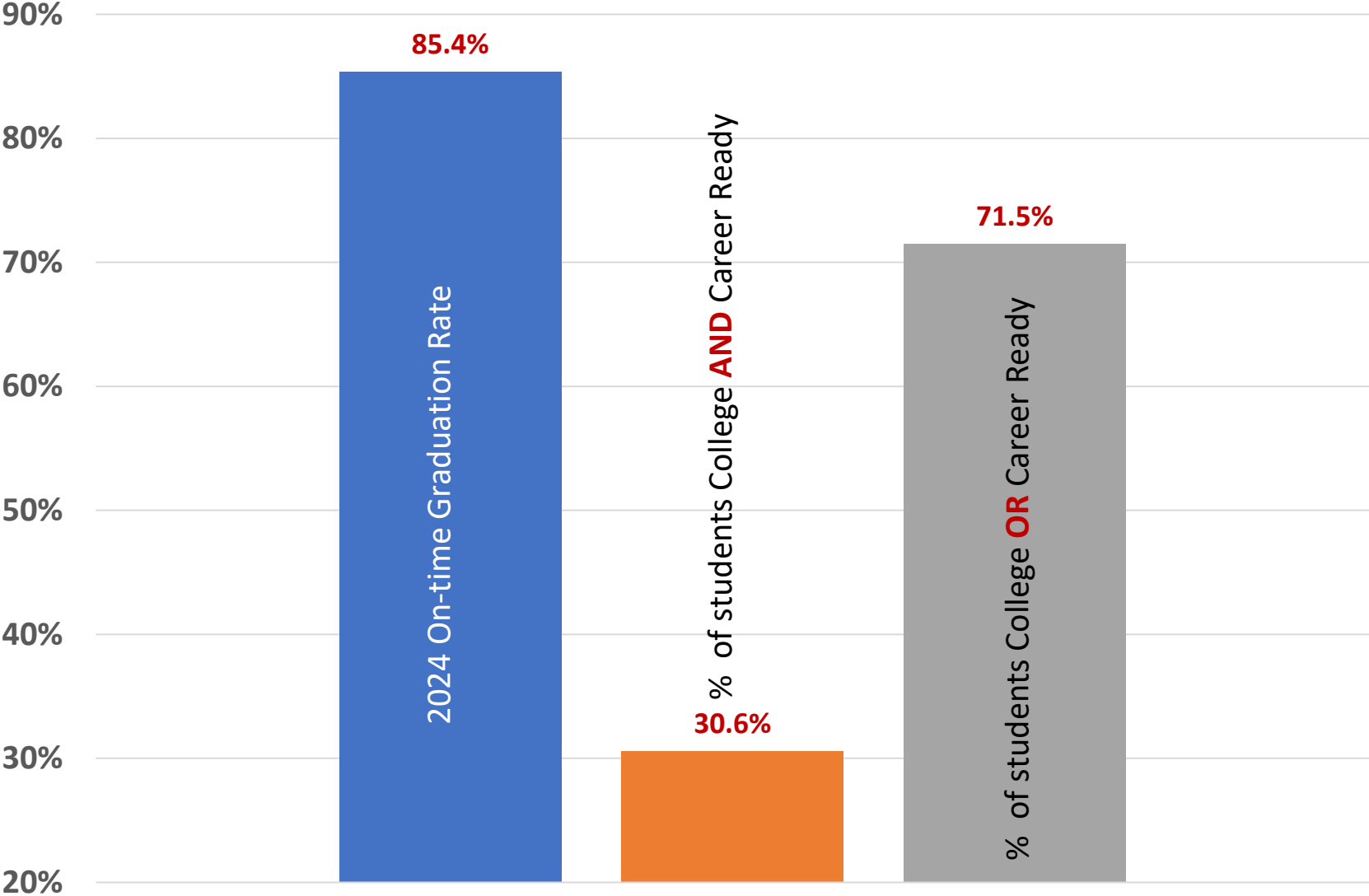
In School Year 2023-24, what did student performance look like in elementary and middle schools by Overall Rating?



State On-time Graduation Rate



2024 Graduation Rate vs. College and Career Readiness



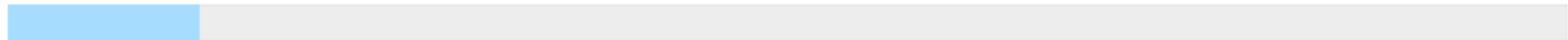
College Readiness

32.5% of 2024 Graduation Cohort were college ready

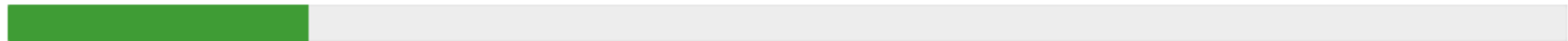
Students in the graduation cohort who are college ready 32.5% (19702 / 60700)



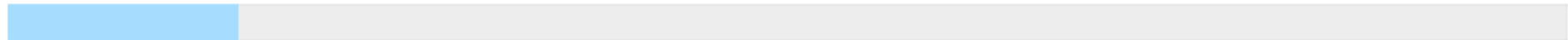
Students in the graduation cohort who achieved an ACT composite score of 20 or higher 12.4% (7502 / 60700)



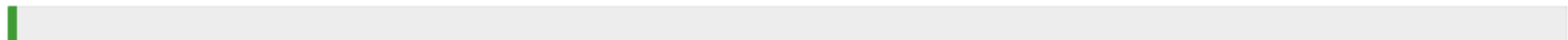
Students in the graduation cohort who achieved an SAT score of 1020 or higher 19.3% (11744 / 60700)



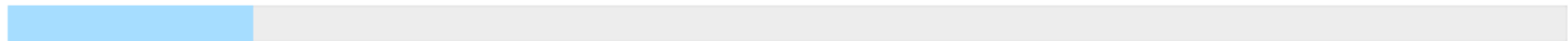
Students in the graduation cohort who earned an Advanced Placement (AP) score of three or higher 14.9% (9026 / 60700)



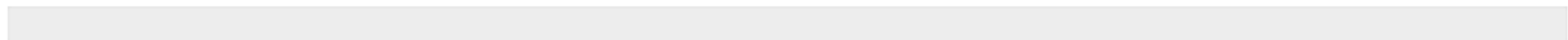
Students in the graduation cohort who earned an International Baccalaureate (IB) score of four or higher 0.7% (426 / 60700)



Students in the graduation cohort who completed six hours of dual credit course work with a grade of C or higher 15.8% (9608 / 60700)

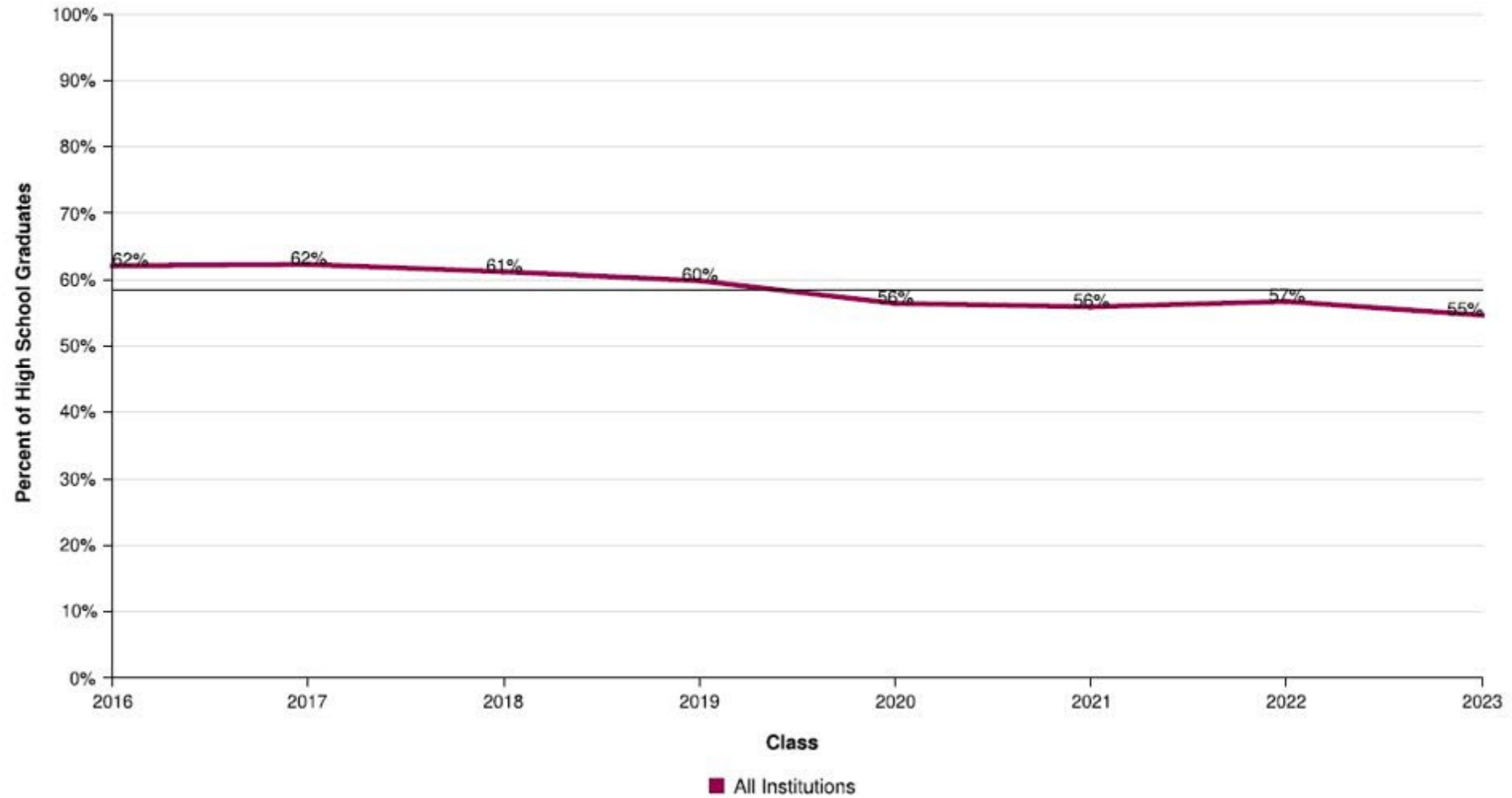


Students in the graduation cohort who scored a C or higher in any Advanced Level (A) Cambridge International Exam 0.0% (16 / 60700)



Percent of Students Enrolled in College the Fall Immediately After High School

Effective Date = August 21, 2024



AVG = 59%

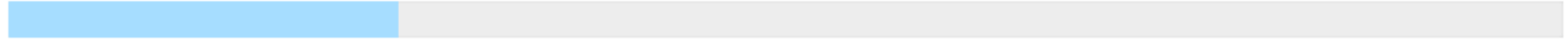
Career Readiness

69.6% of 2024 Graduation Cohort were career ready

Students in the graduation cohort who are career ready 69.6% (42241 / 60700)



Students in the graduation cohort who have completed Career and Technical Education (CTE) with certification 25.1% (15220 / 60700)



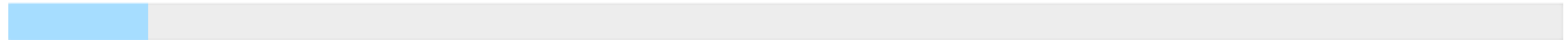
Students in the graduation cohort who completed a state-approved work-based learning experience 9.7% (5892 / 60700)



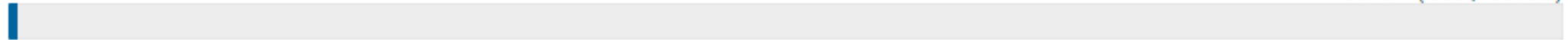
Students in the graduation cohort who achieved 3 or above (or Silver or higher pre-2022-23) on the career readiness assessment 55.1% (33423 / 60700)



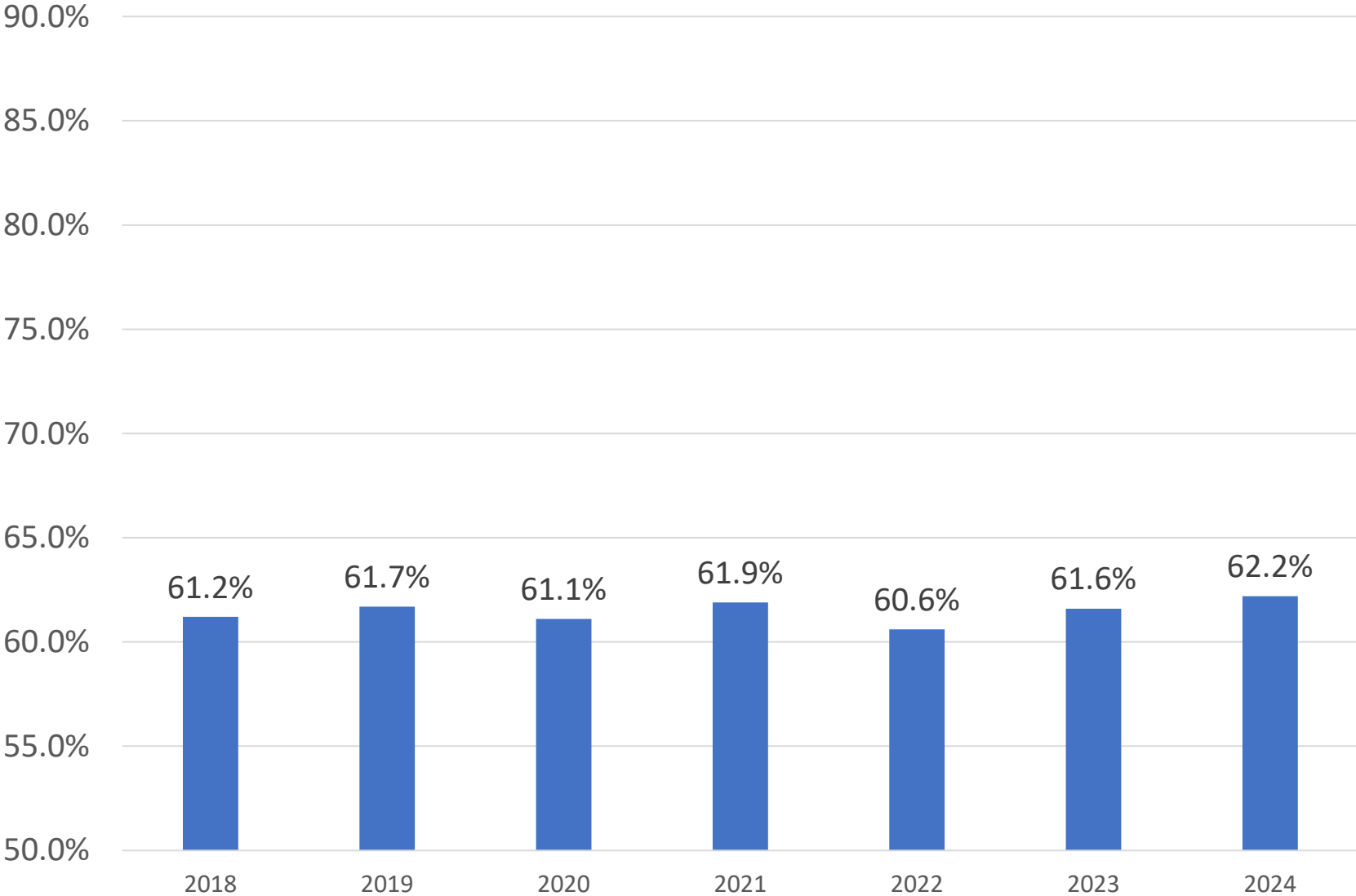
Students in the graduation cohort who took the ASVAB and scored 31 or higher 9.0% (5437 / 60700)



Students in the graduation cohort with a disability who successfully completed the South Carolina High School Employability Credential 0.7% (449 / 60700)



Statewide Average Poverty Index, 2018-2024



High Poverty (90% and above) Elementary, Middle and High Schools with a 2024 Overall Rating of *Excellent* or *Good*

District	School	2024 Poverty Index	2024 Overall Rating
Florence 1	Brockington Elementary	96.2%	Good
Clarendon 6	Dr. Rose H. Wilder Elementary	95.6%	Excellent
Bamberg 3	Denmark-Olar Elementary	94.7%	Good
Williamsburg	Kingstree Middle Magnet	94.4%	Excellent
Charleston	St. James Santee Elementary-Middle	93.4%	Good
Williamsburg	Kenneth Gardner Leadership Academy	93.2%	Good
Williamsburg	C.E. Murray Elementary	93.2%	Good
Florence 1	Wallace Gregg Elementary	92.9%	Good
Orangeburg	Dover Elementary	91.7%	Excellent
Darlington	Rosenwald Elementary/Middle	90.8%	Excellent
Orangeburg	Ellore Elementary	90.3%	Good