

SC EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

2018 Report to the SC General Assembly

ACCOUNTABILITY

Historically, South Carolina students showed the most improvements when school accountability was strong and persistent. Less accountability of schools will not help students. In November 2018, SC schools will receive ratings after a three-year hiatus.

In 2005, South Carolina was one of the five fastest improving systems in the country in math and science.*

based on 2003 NAEP results, 4th grade and 8th grade performance

Most Improved

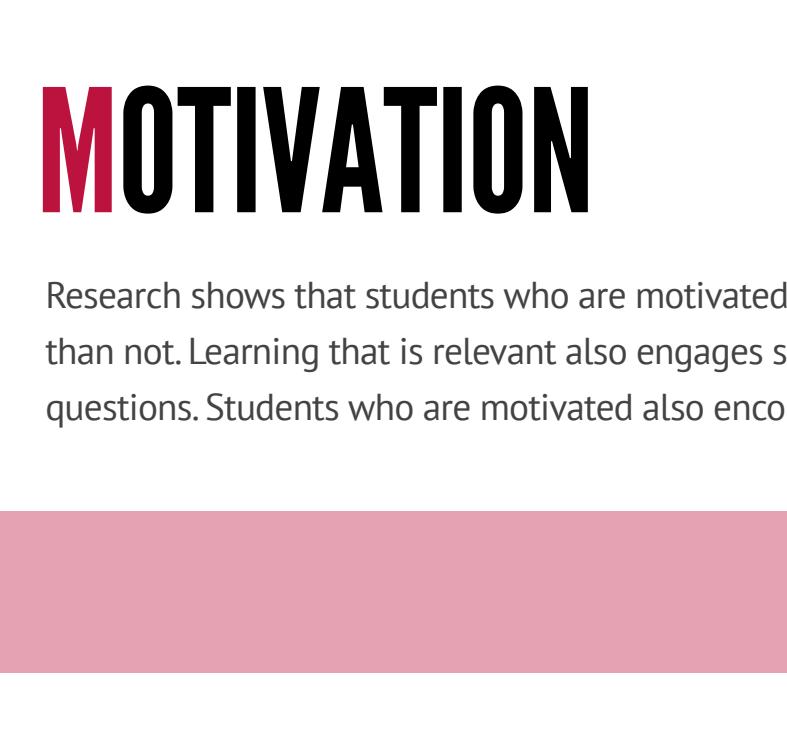
STATE	SCORE (GRADE)	CHANGE
California	71.3 C-	↑ 1.3
North Dakota	78.1 C+	↑ 1.3
Oregon	71.4 C-	↑ 1.0
Mississippi	66.8 D+	↑ 1.0
Minnesota	80.2 B-	↑ 0.9

Largest Declines

STATE	SCORE (GRADE)	CHANGE
West Virginia	70.8 C-	↓ -0.6
Maryland	82.4 B-	↓ -0.4
South Carolina	70.3 C-	↓ -0.2
Tennessee	70.8 C-	↓ -0.1
New Mexico	66.2 D	↓ -0.1

SOURCE: Education Week Research Center, 2018

INNOVATION



Traditional schooling must be transformed to provide all South Carolina students with the tools they need to meet the Profile of the SC Graduate. As the world changes in a rapid fashion, schools and communities must change with it in order to meet the educational needs of all students.

MOTIVATION

Research shows that students who are motivated to achieve are more likely to meet higher expectations than not. Learning that is relevant also engages students, motivating them to learn more and ask questions. Students who are motivated also encourage our teachers and the system to reach higher levels.

AIM HigherSC

The South Carolina Education Oversight Committee (EOC) is an independent, nonpartisan group made up of 18 educators, business people, and elected officials who have been appointed by the legislature and Governor to enact the South Carolina Education Accountability Act of 1998.

Neil Robinson, Jr., *Chair*

Bob Couch, *Vice-Chair*

April Allen

Anne Bull

Raye Felder

Barbara Hairfield

Greg Hembree

Kevin Johnson

Dwight Loftis

John Matthews, Jr.

Henry McMaster

Danny Merck

John Stockwell

Patti Tate

Ellen Weaver

Molly Spearman

(ex-officio, non-voting member)
EOC membership, February 2018

Reporting facts. Measuring change. Promoting progress.

Accountability

In September 2017, the EOC approved accountability measures for elementary, middle, and high schools. The recommendations were sent to the U.S. Department of Education in October 2017. Click to read details about the plan.

EOC Transformational Goals

By 2035, the on-time graduation rate of the state, each district and each high school should be at least 90%.

Beginning with the graduating class of 2020, South Carolina must increase annually by 5% the percentage of students who graduate ready to enter postsecondary education to pursue a degree or national industry credential without the need for remediation.

[Click here for SC Accountability ESSA Plan submitted to the US Dept. of Education](#)

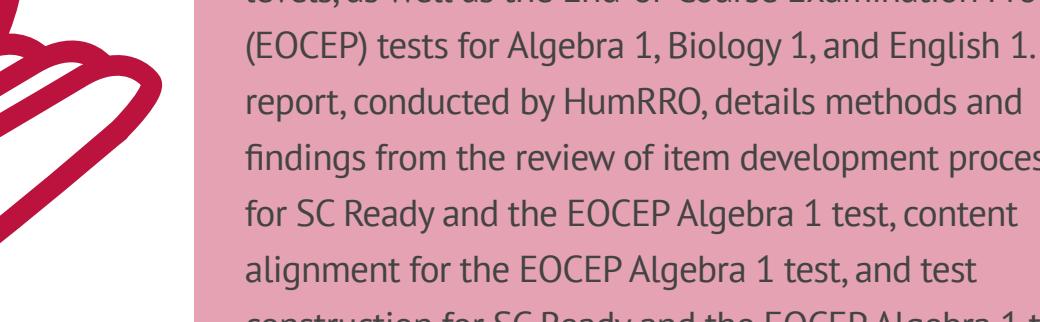
In April 2017, the EOC published a [Report on the Educational Performance of Military-Connected Students](#)

The report contains:

- An overview of the federal Impact Aid program
- Details regarding the demographics of military-connected students
- An update on the academic performance and school attendance of military-connected students
- A summary of the trainings for educators and families to enhance support of military-connected students at home and in school

In June 2017, the EOC approved the annual evaluation of the SC Teacher Loan Program.

Number of Teachers Who Did Not Return to Teaching (by School Year)



In June 2017, the EOC approved an initial evaluation of the SC Ready for ELA and mathematics at all tested grade levels, as well as the End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) tests for Algebra 1, Biology 1, and English 1. The report, conducted by HumRRO, details methods and findings from the review of item development processes for SC Ready and the EOCEP Algebra 1 test, content alignment for the EOCEP Algebra 1 test, and test construction for SC Ready and the EOCEP Algebra 1 test.

[Click here for full evaluation](#)

EIA Recommendations

As required by state law, the EOC makes annual EIA budget recommendations. The following is a summary for [Fiscal Year 2018-19 recommendations](#).



Strengthening the Teaching Profession

- Increase the state minimum teacher salary from \$30,113 to \$32,000 for a beginning teacher at a cost of \$8.7 million;
- Increase the number of Teaching Fellows scholarships from 200 to 215 at a total increase of \$360,000; and
- To determine why teachers are leaving the classroom, especially during the first five years of their career, the EOC proposes an anonymous Working Conditions Survey (\$250,000) be implemented throughout the state. The results of the survey would also guide policymakers in addressing the teacher shortage.



Improving Student Outcomes

- Increase funding of \$13.1 million for charter schools to reflect increased enrollment;
- Increase funding of \$11.0 million for technical assistance, to support the bottom 10% of schools identified as underperforming or Unsatisfactory in November of 2018;
- Increase funding for technology infrastructure of \$3.0 million;
- Increase funding of \$250,000 to expand STEM initiative in the Upcountry and Coastal Pee Dee areas of state;
- Increase funding of \$500,000 for year-round arts education programs and support for arts programs in state; and
- Maintain \$3.0 million for industry credentials to ensure that the state pays for exams that high school students take to earn industry credentials needed for the available jobs in our state.

Innovation

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The Education Block Grant program encourages and incentivizes evidence-based early childhood strategies that enhance the quality of 4K programs and instruction.

Christopher Leventis Cox,
Grants Committee Chair

Community Block Grants for Education Pilot Program

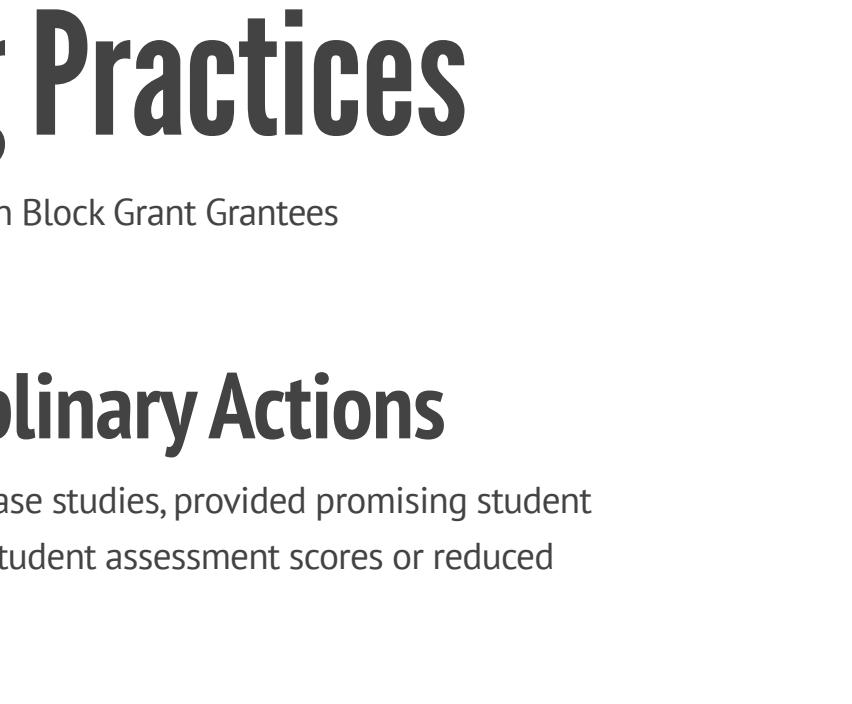
Fiscal Year	Allocations	Applications Received	Grant Awards
2017-18	\$1,000,000	10 at \$1.6 million	7
2016-17	\$1,000,000	20 at \$3.7 million	8
2015-16	\$2,000,000	17 at \$3.6 million	7

In January 2018, the EOC convened a committee to evaluate applications from SC school districts applying for the SC Community Block Grant for Education Pilot Program. This one-year block grant program is a matching grants initiative designed to encourage sustainable partnerships among South Carolina school districts and community groups. The General Assembly and Governor approved the grant in the state budget to improve children's readiness for kindergarten by enhancing the quality of state-funded full day 4K programs and instruction. Over the past three years, applicants have requested \$7.6 million in funding with \$4 million allocated from fiscal year 2015-16 through fiscal year 2017-18.

Grant recipients in 2015-16 were required to select and use an approved teacher-child interaction assessment to implement within all or some of their 4K classrooms. The use of teacher-child interaction assessments allows schools and districts to better understand and improve the quality of instruction and interactions within early childhood classrooms. Grantees focused on literacy/language development, and some focused on additional domains of development such as numeracy and social-emotional development. *Click here to read the report.*



In 2015-16, Grantees worked with 160 classrooms within 33 schools impacting approximately 3,050 students.



Promising Practices

From 2015-16 Education Block Grant Grantees



Reduced Disciplinary Actions

Two grantees, involved in the case studies, provided promising student outcomes based on improved student assessment scores or reduced disciplinary actions.



Improved Parent-Child Interactions

One grantee, involved in the case studies, provided promising parent and child outcomes, showing an increase from pre- to post-intervention in amount of adult words being spoken and the amount of conversational turns between a parent and child within a 24-hour time period.

Per Proviso 109.11 of the 2017-18 General Appropriations Act, the EOC approves schools for qualification in the Educational Credit for Exceptional Needs Children (ECENC) Program. *Click here to learn more.*

Palmetto Digital Literacy Evaluation

As of December 31, 2017, of the 46 school districts eligible to participate in the program, 37 (80%) are participating this school year as compared to 35 in the prior school year. And, approximately 24,503 student accounts have been created this year.

Click here to read the report.



Algebra Nation Evaluation

As of December 31, 2017, 65 (80%) of the 82 school districts have opted for full access to all services. The evaluation is ongoing.

Motivation

Motivating Learners

Martin's Math Club and Educate My Sole

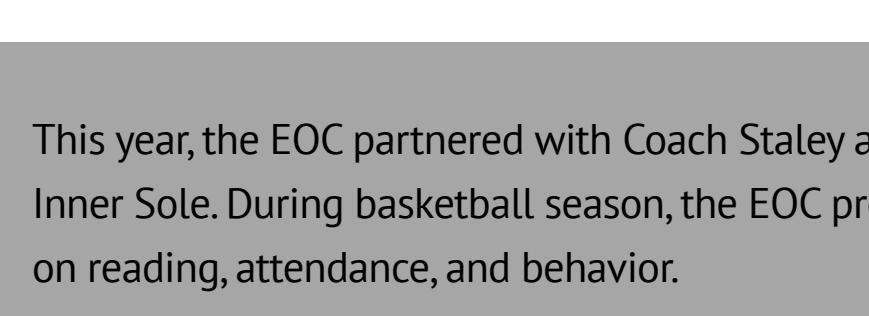
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Math is everywhere in the game of basketball and learning math teaches you how to work problems out every day. I am thrilled to be able to work with the students and teachers of math in South Carolina on this important project.

Coach Frank Martin, Head Coach, University of South Carolina Men's Basketball Team & former math teacher



Both Coach Martin and Dawn Staley, the Head Coach of the 2017 National Championship Lady Gamecocks, have partnered with the EOC to help provide resources to help SC students succeed. Martin's Math Club is an incentive program for teachers and students, which also incorporates support resources for students and teachers in math.



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A lot of people notice when you succeed, but they don't see what it takes to get there.

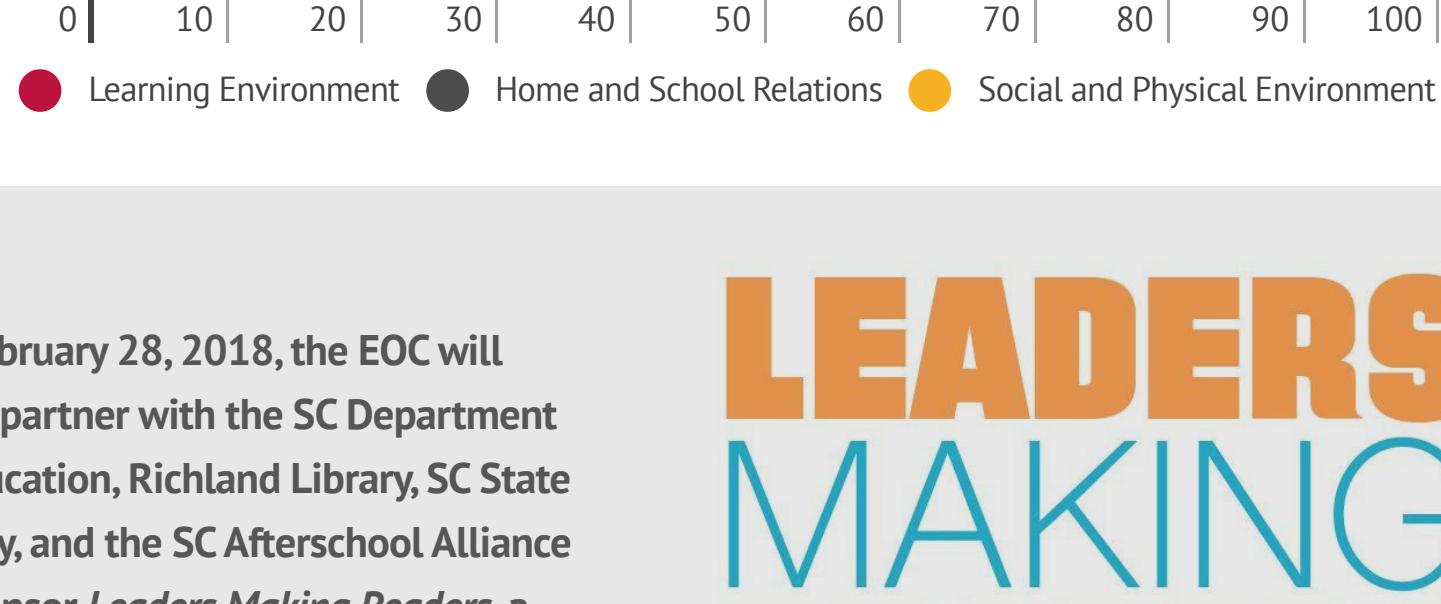
Coach Dawn Staley, Head Coach, University of South Carolina Women's Basketball Team

This year, the EOC partnered with Coach Staley and her Educate My Sole initiative, a program of Inner Sole. During basketball season, the EOC provided lessons to participating schools focused on reading, attendance, and behavior.

Parent Satisfaction

The EOC does an annual evaluation of the results of the Parent Survey, which was first administered to parents of children attending SC public schools in 2001. The parents of students in the highest grade at all elementary, middle and high schools are surveyed. In high schools and career centers, parents of all 11th graders are surveyed. [Click here for full report.](#)

Percentage of Parents Satisfied with Each Characteristic, 2013-16



On February 28, 2018, the EOC will again partner with the SC Department of Education, Richland Library, SC State Library, and the SC Afterschool Alliance to sponsor *Leaders Making Readers*, a day-long symposium focused on improving student achievement in reading during district summer reading camps.

**LEADERS
MAKING
READERS**

2018