SC Annual School Report Card Summary

Choices
Darlington
Grades: 7-9 **Enrollment: 42**
Principal: Ralph Porter
Superintendent: Dr. Rainey H. Knight
Board Chair: Dr. Allem McCutcheon

PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on www.ed.sc.gov and www.eoc.sc.gov as well as school and school district websites. Printed versions are available from school districts upon request.

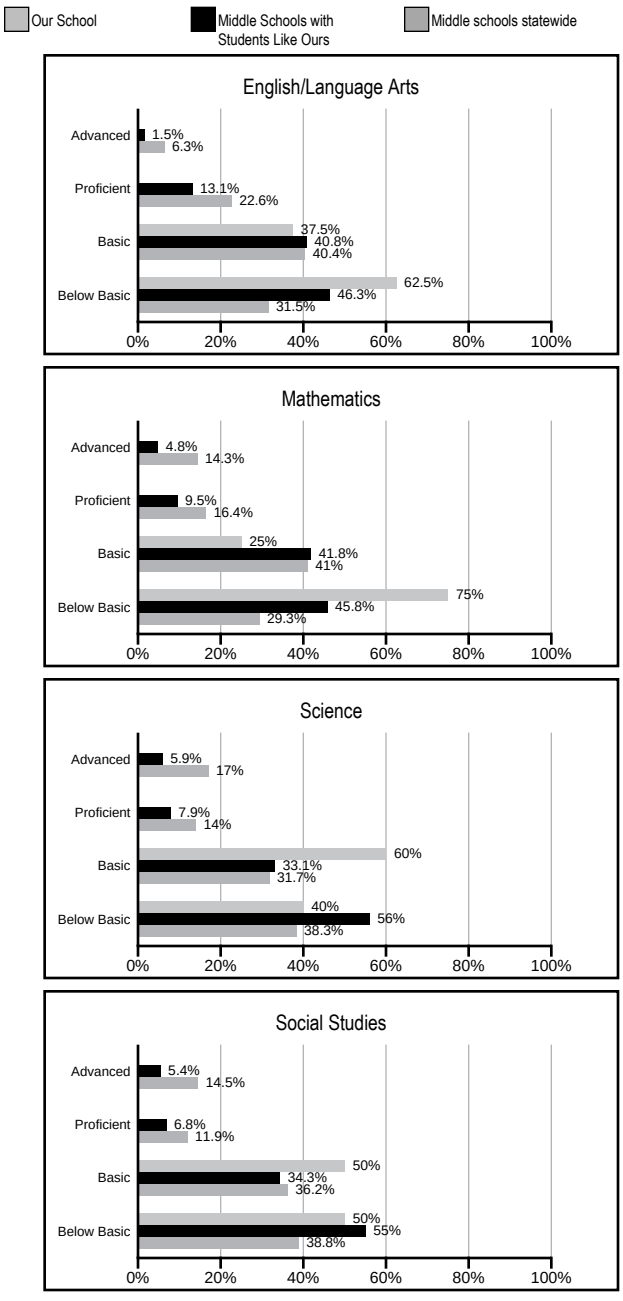
YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING	PALMETTO GOLD/SILVER AWARD	AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
2008	At-Risk	At-Risk	TBD	Not Met	N/A
2007	At-Risk	At-Risk	N/A	Not Met	N/A
2006	At-Risk	At-Risk	N/A	Not Met	N/A

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
0	0	1	2	42

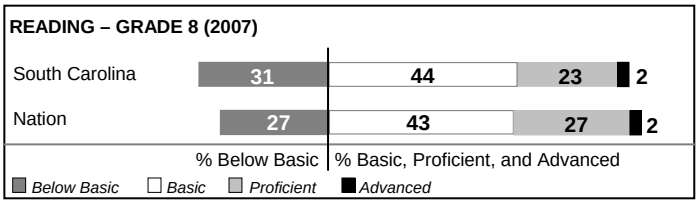
** Ratings are calculated with data available by 03/02/2009. Schools with Students like Ours are Middle Schools with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.*

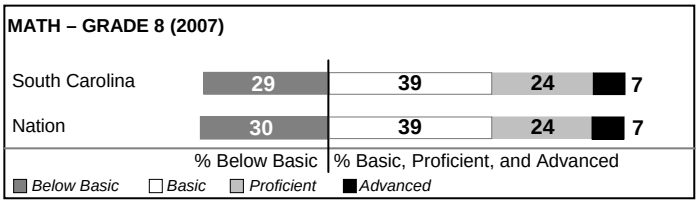
PACT PERFORMANCE

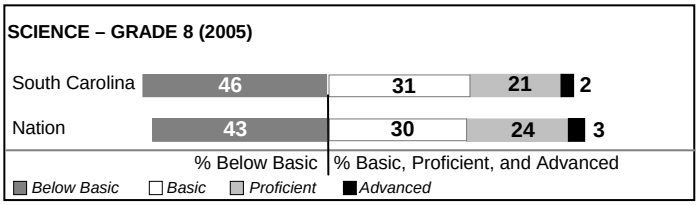


NAEP PERFORMANCE*

** Performance reported for SC and nation, data not available at school level. Percentages at NAEP Achievement Levels.*







END OF COURSE TESTS - 2008

% of students scoring 70 or above on:	Our Middle School	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	0%	86.9%
English 1	0%	84.1%
Physical Science	0%	35.2%
All Subjects	0%	84.7%

SC PERFORMANCE GOAL

2010 Goal:
By 2010, SC's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of the states nationally. To achieve this goal, we must become one of the fastest improving systems in the country.

2020 Goal: TBD

Abbreviations Key
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NI Newly Identified **CSI** Continuing School Improvement **CA** Corrective Action **RP** Plan to Restructure **R** Restructure **DELAY** School Improvement Status **HOLD** School Improvement Status

Choices [Darlington]

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
Students (n=42)				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	N/R	N/R	11.8%	19.4%
Retention rate	21.6%	Down from 44.2%	3.4%	1.8%
Attendance rate	90.7%	Down from 91.0%	95.2%	95.8%
Eligible for gifted and talented	0.0%	No Change	5.8%	15.3%
With disabilities other than speech	3.6%	Down from 19.2%	13.4%	12.9%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent &/or criminal offenses	9.5%	Down from 13.0%	0.7%	0.7%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=5)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	0.0%	No Change	53.5%	55.0%
Continuing contract teachers	100.0%	No Change	54.3%	70.6%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0.0%	No Change	18.9%	5.4%
Teachers returning from previous year	N/A	N/A	76.5%	83.4%
Teacher attendance rate	100.0%	No Change	94.7%	94.9%
Average teacher salary	N/A	I/S	$43,109	$44,706
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	N/A	N/A	8.7%	2.9%
School				
Principal's years at school	6.0	Up from 5.0	2.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	10.7 to 1	Down from 11.3 to 1	16.3 to 1	20.1 to 1
Prime instructional time	90.7%	Down from 91.0%	88.8%	89.3%
Opportunities in the arts	Poor	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	No	No Change	Yes	Yes
Character development program	Average	No Change	Good	Good
Dollars spent per pupil*	N/A	N/A	$8,665	$7,097
Percent of expenditures for instruction*	N/A	N/A	63.2%	64.4%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries*	N/A	N/A	56.9%	59.4%
% of AYP objectives met	0.0%		53.8%	69.0%

* Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	0	21	21
Percent satisfied with learning environment	N/R	95.2%	90.0%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	N/R	100.0%	90.0%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	N/R	80.0%	90.5%

*Only students at the highest middle school grade level at this school and their parents were included.

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

"CHOiCES" is in its 6th year as a charter school with charter agreements with both Florence District One and Darlington County. "CHOiCES" target population is students ages 12 yrs to 17yrs who have been expelled from school or dropped out. Our goal is to provide an education that will transition them to become life-long learners and to return to regular, traditional school, if that is possible and appropriate. "CHOiCES" provides a foundation for continuous learning through classroom instruction, service learning, project-based learning, and on-site construction training. Character training is the cornerstone for "CHOiCES" as the students are given the opportunity to discover the greatest possible understanding of self. They are exposed to individual, personalized learning with a strong emphasis on work ethics and job skills.

The mission of "CHOiCES" Charter School is to provide a leaning environment that links school to work experiences by making the right choices and staying in school. The idea for 'CHOiCES" originated with the retired police chief of Florence, who saw a need for a school for divergent learners who were roaming the streets and demonstrating behavior problems that were getting them expelled from school. This is the only other alternative after expulsion other than the streets or incarceration. "CHOiCES" is physically located in Darlington County adjacent to Florence County in the middle of 130 acres of forest on Black Creek. The property is owned by Central United Methodist Church and "CHOiCES" actually leases 8 acres for one dollar per month for the actual school location. Student enrollment has remained small, beginning with 30 students and capping off at 45 students. There is one certified teacher and teacher's assistant per 15 students with additional assistance provided by retired professional people in the community. "CHOiCES" has incorporated a Pre-GED component for students that cannot return to High School and will pursue the GED test when they turn 17yrs of age. "Choices" has adopted a progressive discipline system that ensures good communications between schools relative to student behavior.

Respectfully submitted by: Ralph Porter Executive Director and retired Police Chief.

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