

SC Annual School District Report Card Summary

Darlington School District
Grades: PK-12 **Enrollment: 11,037**
Superintendent: Dr. Rainey H. Knight
Board Chair: Connell Delaine

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 AND SILVER AWARD	AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
			General Performance	Closing the Gap	
2009	Below Average	At-Risk	N/A	Not Met	CA
2008	Below Average	Excellent	N/A	Not Met	CA
2007	Below Average	Below Average	N/A	Not Met	CA

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF DISTRICTS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
0	0	2	15	0

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 06/01/2010. Districts with Students Like Ours are Districts with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this district.

PASS

PASS	2009 Reading	2009 Math	2009 Science	2009 Social Studies	2009 Writing
	% Met or above	% Met or above	% Met or above	% Met or above	% Met or above
District	64.6%	64.0%	60.7%	66.4%	59.5%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	68.3%	64.5%	61.0%	66.7%	63.5%
Average District	73.6%	70.5%	67.4%	72.2%	70.2%

PASS	2009 Reading	2009 Math	2009 Science	2009 Social Studies	2009 Writing
	% Exemplary	% Exemplary	% Exemplary	% Exemplary	% Exemplary
District	25.5%	20.2%	13.1%	21.5%	19.6%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	28.6%	21.9%	14.4%	21.9%	22.5%
Average District	35.2%	28.8%	18.8%	28.5%	29.8%

HSAP

HSAP: 2nd Year Students	Passed 2 Subtests (%)	Passed 1 Subtest (%)	Passed No Subtests (%)
District	71.5%	14.0%	14.5%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	73.1%	14.0%	12.9%

HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2009 (%)

District	92.9%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	92.8%

End of Course Test Passage Rate (%)

District	56.8
Districts with Students Like Ours**	54.3

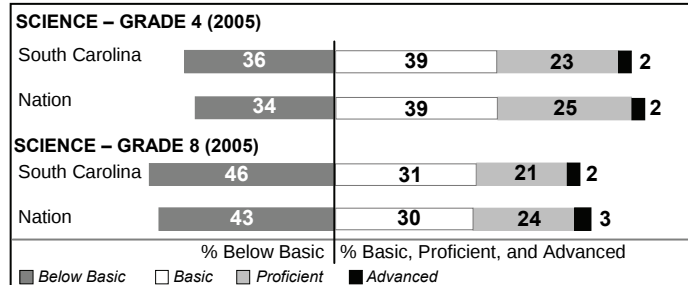
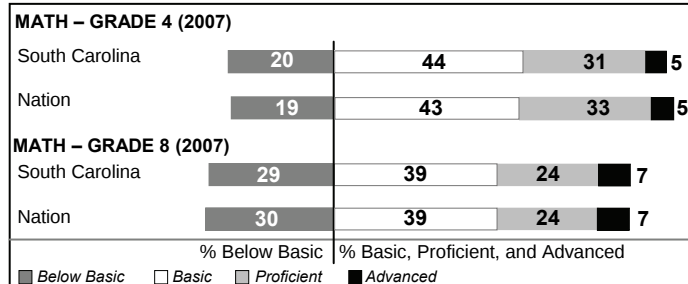
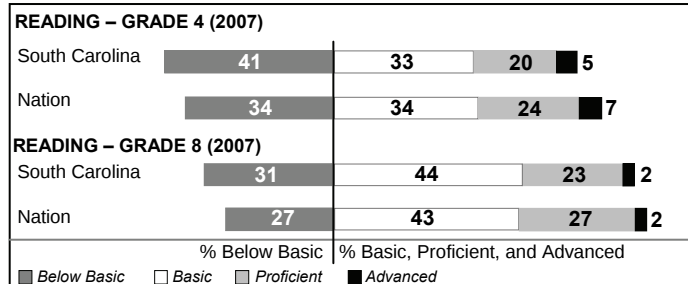
On-Time Graduation Rate (%)

District	79.8%
Districts with Students Like Ours**	74.9%

** Districts with Students Like Ours are districts with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this district.

NAEP*

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



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 Vision:

By 2020 all students will graduate with the knowledge and skills necessary to compete successfully in the global economy, participate in a democratic society and contribute positively as members of families and communities.

Abbreviations Key

N/A Not Applicable N/AV Not Available N/C Not Collected N/R Not Reported I/S Insufficient Sample TBD To be determined
 NI Newly Identified CDI Continuing District Improvement CA Corrective Action RP Plan to Restructure R Restructure DELAY District Improvement Status HOLD District Improvement Status

Darlington School District

DISTRICT PROFILE

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with Students Like Ours	Median District
Students (n=11,037)				
Retention rate	5.1%	Down from 5.7%	3.3%	3.1%
Attendance rate	95.4%	Up from 95.3%	95.4%	95.7%
Eligible for gifted and talented	9.7%	Down from 10.1%	9.8%	11.2%
With disabilities other than speech	13.0%	Up from 12.9%	10.6%	10.6%
Older than usual for grade	4.9%	Up from 4.6%	4.9%	4.3%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.2%	Down from 0.9%	0.6%	0.5%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	8.1%	Down from 10.3%	8.1%	10.5%
Successful on AP/IB exams	51.2%	Down from 59.0%	51.1%	51.2%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	31.3%	Up from 28.9%	29.5%	30.8%
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	271	Up from 173	34	40
Completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	119	Up from 89	22	30
Annual dropout rate	1.7%	Down from 2.7%	3.4%	3.4%
Teachers (n=760)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	51.1%	Down from 51.2%	55.8%	56.8%
Continuing contract teachers	71.8%	Down from 74.7%	76.5%	76.7%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	7.0%	Down from 7.7%	5.5%	4.6%
Teachers returning from previous year	87.9%	Up from 87.7%	87.4%	88.4%
Teacher attendance rate	95.9%	Up from 95.6%	95.5%	95.0%
Average teacher salary*	\$46,149	Down 0%	\$45,806	\$46,992
Vacancies for more than nine weeks	0.9%	Down from 2.2%	0.4%	0.4%
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	3.8%	Down from 4.4%	3.4%	2.3%
Professional development days/teacher	18.9 days	Down from 22.1 days	13.9 days	13.1 days
District				
Superintendent's years at district	10.0	Up from 9.0	3.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	22.3 to 1	Up from 20.3 to 1	20.5 to 1	20.5 to 1
Prime instructional time	89.8%	Up from 88.8%	89.8%	89.8%
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$9,134	Up 5.4%	\$9,203	\$9,279
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	51.8%	Down from 51.9%	51.8%	52.7%
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	56.4%	Down from 56.5%	55.4%	56.7%
Opportunities in the arts	Excellent	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Number of schools	23	No Change	8	9
Portable classrooms	3.3%	Down from 4.3%	2.3%	3.5%
Average age in years of school facilities	35 Years	Up from 34 Years	28 Years	28 Years
Number of schools with SACS accreditation	22.0	No Change	8.0	8.0
Parents attending conferences	93.3%	N/A	94.9%	93.9%
Average administrator salary	\$80,660	Up 2.2%	\$78,515	\$79,261
Number of charter schools	1	No Change	0	0
% of AYP objectives met	82.8%	Up from 72.4%	85.2%	85.7%

* Length of contract = 185+ days.

** Prior year audited financial data available.

CHARTER SCHOOLS IN DISTRICT

School Name	Absolute Rating	Growth Rating	Adequate Yearly Progress
Choices	At-Risk	At-Risk	Not Met

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REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT

Darlington County School District serves over 11,000 students in 23 schools, including a state-of-the-art career and technology center, an alternative school, four high schools, three middle schools, thirteen elementary schools, and one early childhood center. All schools are fully accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools and the SC Department of Education as well as having earned prestigious national accreditation through the AdvancED program (SACS CASI).

Our district believes in providing challenging educational experiences for all children. In addition to our regular classes, Darlington County School District offers elementary and middle school art and science magnet programs. Three high schools offer magnet programs for students who wish to pursue a more academically challenging course of study: International Baccalaureate/Honors College at Hartsville High School; Math, Science & Technology at Mayo High School; and Early College at Darlington High School. In addition, students who struggle academically have many resources available to them.

We firmly believe that exceptional educators are the key to a student's success. The district supports a comprehensive program of professional development for all school personnel and administrators. Among the many professional development opportunities, the district provides support and guidance for teachers who wish to pursue National Board Certification. The district also offers several degree programs through partnerships with local colleges and universities. Our new teachers are part of an extensive mentoring network and are given the support and tools they need to succeed.

Darlington County School District is committed to providing cutting-edge technology in the classroom. Through our comprehensive technology plan, all core curriculum teachers have laptop computers to assist in their classroom management and teaching. All schools are wired for the Internet, with some featuring wireless laptop computer labs, computer-based programs to evaluate and differentiate instruction, or online credit-recovery tools for our students. Most of our schools also have interactive whiteboards in the classrooms.

We believe that excellent teaching and meaningful learning can only be achieved through active partnerships among parents, schools, and community. For that reason, the district has created the PARTNERS program as a way to build positive and creative relationships among the many stakeholders of the schools. The PARTNERS program defines specific avenues through which parents and community members can become actively involved with schools in our district.

We are proud of our many successes of this year. Twenty-three students were recognized as Junior Scholars. All four high schools earned Palmetto Gold and Palmetto Silver awards, which recognize high levels of academic achievement and high rates of student academic improvement. Though the national and state SAT average scores have remained stagnant, Darlington County School District's scores continue to increase. Sixty-two district teachers have now earned National Board Certification. Our 82% graduation rate is among the highest rate in the Pee Dee. Darlington County School District's 2008 graduating seniors set a new record by earning \$15.4 million in scholarships!

Dr. Rainey Knight

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