

SC Annual School Report Card Summary

Whale Branch Elementary
Beaufort County
Grades: PK-4
Principal: Don Doggett
Superintendent: Dr. Valerie Truesdale
Board Chair: Fred Washington

Enrollment: 282

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	At-Risk	Below Average	TBD	TBD	Not Met	R
2008	At-Risk	Good	N/A	N/A	Not Met	R
2007	At-Risk	At-Risk	N/A	N/A	Not Met	RP

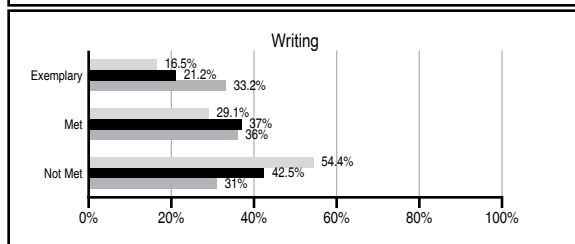
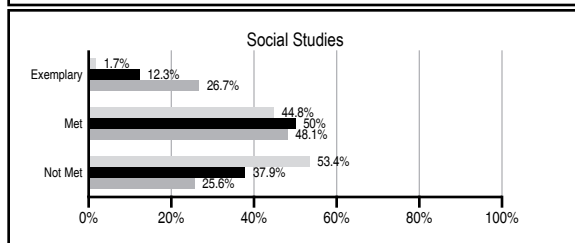
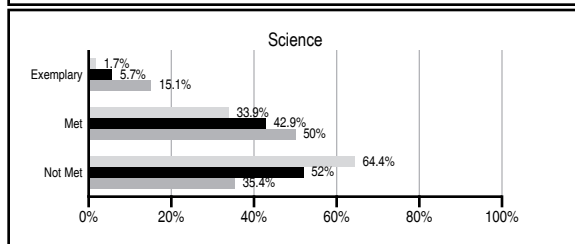
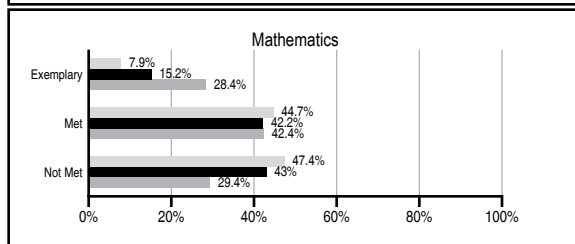
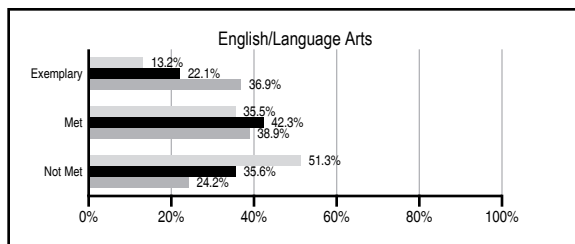
ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
1	3	70	64	32

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

PASS PERFORMANCE

Our School Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours Elementary schools statewide



NAEP PERFORMANCE*

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

READING – GRADE 4 (2007)

South Carolina	41	33	20	5
Nation	34	34	24	7
% Below Basic % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced				
Below Basic Basic Proficient Advanced				

MATH – GRADE 4 (2007)

South Carolina	20	44	31	5
Nation	19	43	33	5
% Below Basic % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced				
Below Basic Basic Proficient Advanced				

SCIENCE – GRADE 4 (2005)

South Carolina	36	39	23	2
Nation	34	39	25	2
% Below Basic % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced				
Below Basic Basic Proficient Advanced				

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 CSI Continuing School Improvement CA Corrective Action RP Plan to Restructure R Restructure DELAY School Improvement Status HOLD School Improvement Status

Whale Branch Elementary [Beaufort County]

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary School
Students (n=282)				
Retention rate	1.2%	Down from 2.5%	2.5%	1.9%
Attendance rate	95.7%	Down from 96.0%	96.0%	96.3%
Eligible for gifted and talented	6.4%	Down from 10.3%	3.3%	10.0%
With disabilities other than speech	9.5%	Down from 10.7%	7.5%	7.7%
Older than usual for grade	0.5%	Down from 1.5%	1.1%	0.5%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=29)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	55.2%	Up from 54.8%	57.1%	59.4%
Continuing contract teachers	69.0%	Down from 87.1%	71.4%	80.0%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	70.0%	Down from 79.4%	82.0%	85.9%
Teacher attendance rate	93.7%	Up from 89.8%	95.2%	95.1%
Average teacher salary*	\$48,838	Up 0.9%	\$45,725	\$47,149
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	6.7%	Down from 12.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Professional development days/teacher	17.3 days	Up from 12.8 days	10.7 days	11.1 days
School				
Principal's years at school	4.0	Up from 3.0	3.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	18.0 to 1	Up from 17.0 to 1	16.7 to 1	18.8 to 1
Prime instructional time	87.4%	Up from 83.7%	90.1%	90.4%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	No	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	Up from 98.8%	100.0%	100.0%
Character development program	Average	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$9,867	Down 9.1%	\$8,624	\$7,458
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	73.1%	Up from 71.9%	68.2%	68.8%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	58.4%	Down from 67.4%	62.0%	63.2%
% of AYP objectives met	92.3%	Up from 76.9%	100.0%	100.0%

* Length of contract = 185+ days.

** Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	20	45	19
Percent satisfied with learning environment	75.0%	77.3%	77.8%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	100.0%	86.7%	84.2%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	63.2%	77.3%	89.5%

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

REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

Another school year has drawn to a close. We have seen some changes this year as we became a Pre-K-4 school. The programs and activities that were offered to support the academic program were widely attended by our students. The staff and parents focused on providing the very best programming for all of our students. The Weekly Professional Development Cluster Meetings, year-round calendar, Extended Learning Time, and celebrations for academic achievement all served to promote our school mission and goals.

All students were involved in community service projects during 2008-09, learning about the importance of citizenship and contributing to the community at large. With the support of the Kiwanis Club we were able to continue our K-kids program that supports these school wide service efforts. In addition, Whale Branch was the recipient of the Fresh Fruit and Vegetables grant. This enabled students to taste new fruits and vegetables. Students were also involved in learning about nutrition and exercise.

This year our school partnered with Whale Branch Middle School and James J. Davis Elementary to implement Family Nights. All parents and students were involved in activities to support literacy, science, technology, and math. The school continued to enjoy grant funding for an after-school program for students requiring additional academic assistance. Our Extended Learning Time programs included intense small-group instruction with reading, writing, and math. Students involved in Extended Learning Time were involved with sweet grass basket making with a teaching artist.

The teacher and parent members of the School Improvement Council engaged in the development of our Focus School Renewal Plan, which focused on raising academic achievement. Strategies were planned and implemented to increase academic achievement in ELA, Math, and Science. Our Gifted and Talented teacher worked with students in third and fourth grade who were identified as being close to Proficient and Advanced on PACT testing. In addition, students in third and fourth grade were involved in hands-on science and social studies labs.

Services in the Early Childhood Development Center were ongoing throughout the year in the respective day care centers. Students and parents in Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, and first grade were involved in Kids Club. Students received books through Reading Is Fundamental (RIF) and parents received tips on how to work and read with their children at home. Whale Branch Elementary School continued with professional development in 6-Traits writing, Everyday Math, and Rigby Literacy.

Changes will be seen again in 2009-10 as we merge with James J. Davis Elementary School and become a grade 1-4 school. Our PreK and Kindergarten students will attend the Early Childhood Development Center at James J. Davis. We believe these changes will continue to improve student academic achievement.

Mark Mansell, Principal
Dr. Al Hall, SIC Chairperson

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