SC Annual School Report Card Summary

Discovery School of Lancaster
Lancaster County
Grades: K-5 **Enrollment: 108**
Principal: Thomas H. McDuffie
Superintendent: Richard E. Moore
Board Chair: Charlene McGriff

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.

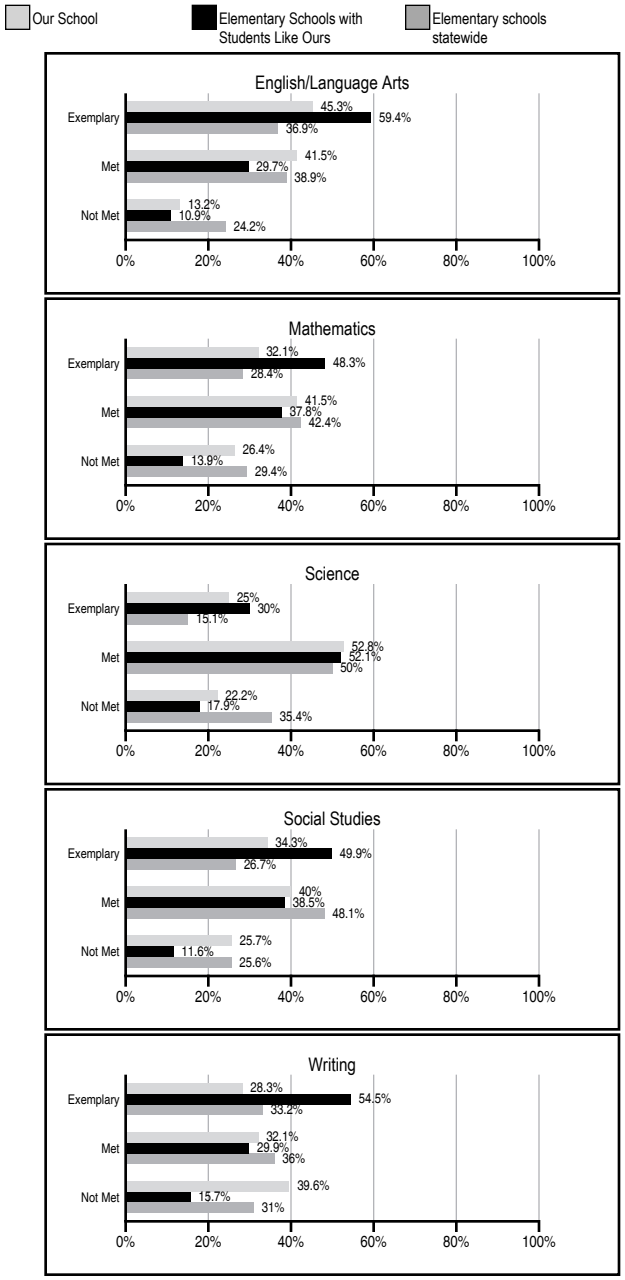
YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING	PALMETTO GOLD AND SILVER AWARD		AYP STATUS	NCLB IMPROVEMENT STATUS
			General Performance	Closing the Gap		
2009	Average	Good	TBD	TBD	Met	N/A
2008	Average	At-Risk	N/A	N/A	Met	N/A
2007	Good	Average	Silver	N/A	Met	N/A

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
20	1	2	0	0

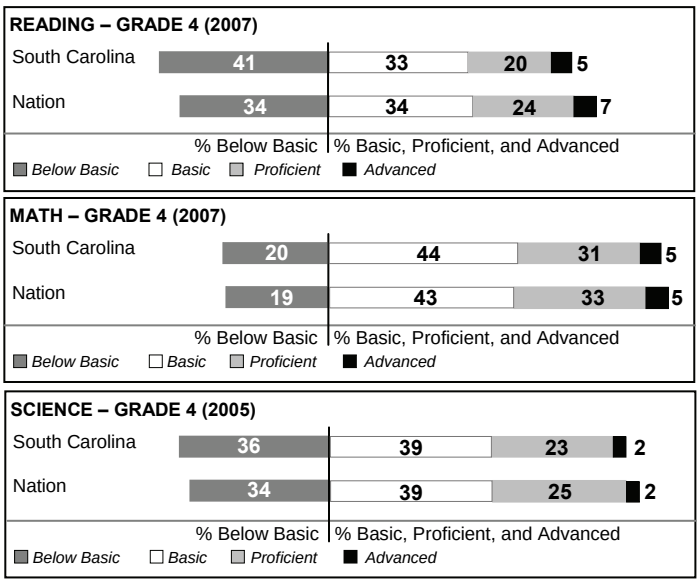
** Ratings are calculated with data available by 06/01/2010. Schools with Students Like Ours are Elementary Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.*

PASS PERFORMANCE



NAEP PERFORMANCE*

** 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
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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

Discovery School of Lancaster [Lancaster County]

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary School
Students (n=108)				
Retention rate	0.0%	Down from 0.9%	1.1%	1.9%
Attendance rate	97.1%	Down from 97.4%	96.6%	96.3%
Eligible for gifted and talented	20.4%	Down from 25.9%	26.9%	10.0%
With disabilities other than speech	5.6%	Up from 3.7%	6.3%	7.7%
Older than usual for grade	0.0%	No Change	0.1%	0.5%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=10)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	30.0%	Down from 33.3%	65.2%	59.4%
Continuing contract teachers	10.0%	Down from 44.4%	80.0%	80.0%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	54.7%	Down from 64.2%	87.5%	85.9%
Teacher attendance rate	96.0%	No Change	94.8%	95.1%
Average teacher salary*	$44,660	Down 4.5%	$48,221	$47,149
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	Down from 14.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Professional development days/teacher	10.5 days	Up from 5.8 days	10.7 days	11.1 days
School				
Principal's years at school	9.0	Up from 8.0	6.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	17.8 to 1	Down from 18.0 to 1	19.8 to 1	18.8 to 1
Prime instructional time	90.0%	Up from 89.8%	90.5%	90.4%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	No	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	99.6%	Down from 100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Character development program	Good	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil**	$7,059	Up 22.2%	$6,914	$7,458
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	76.3%	Down from 82.5%	74.1%	68.8%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	59.7%	Down from 68.4%	68.8%	63.2%
% of AYP objectives met	100.0%	No Change	100.0%	100.0%

* Length of contract = 185+ days.

** Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	7	17	11
Percent satisfied with learning environment	100.0%	88.2%	100.0%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	100.0%	82.4%	100.0%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	100.0%	94.1%	100.0%

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

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REPORT OF PRINCIPAL AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

School year 2008-09 was a year of focus at Discovery School. This included focus on our mission and vision, focus on our students, focus on current educational research, focus on professional development, and focus on both state and national perspectives related to education. Our core mission, to educate children using multiple intelligences theory and practice, remained constant throughout the school year. Visitors to our classrooms saw clear evidence that we value nature, music, art and spatial relationships, movement, and interpersonal and intrapersonal skills as well as logical-mathematical skills, and verbal-linguistic intelligence. Examples of research-based strategies were clearly evident throughout the year: brainstorming and discussion; drawing and other forms of artwork; field trips; games to reinforce skills and concepts; use of Thinking Maps across the curriculum; humor and celebration; manipulatives and models; metaphors, analogies, and similes; mnemonic devices; movement; music, rhythm, rhyme, and rap; project- and problem-based instruction; reciprocal teaching, cooperative learning and peer coaching; role-plays, drama, pantomimes, and charades; storytelling; technology integration; visualization; use of visual aides; service learning and action research; and emphasis on writing and reflection in all content areas. Our students remain at the center of all instructional planning. Their strengths and areas to be strengthened are the focal points of the Personal Education Plans that are formulated for each student at our school. Identifying areas of interest and strength and differentiating curriculum for our students are key elements in the Renzulli Learning System that is available at school and at home for all of our students. Three student-led conferences are required each year for each student. Professional development opportunities for teachers are comprehensive and are based on the teachings of notable educational theorists and practitioners including the following: Howard Gardner, Marcia Tate, Joyce Van Tassel-Baska, Patricia Cunningham, Shelagh Gallagher, and Joseph Renzulli. Maintaining the mission and vision of Discovery School has been bolstered by new leadership at the national level. Our president, Barack Obama, stated in a speech in March of 2009 that the focus of education should be on “standards and assessments that don’t simply measure whether students can fill in a bubble on a test, but whether they possess 21st century skills like problem-solving and critical thinking, entrepreneurship and creativity.” This sentiment has clearly been at the heart of Discovery School’s mission and vision for nearly a decade. We remain committed to maintaining high standards for all Discovery School students and to implementing research-based strategies that challenge and enrich the cognitive and affective realms of our students’ lives. Tom McDuffie, Site Manager; Chris Nunnery & Betsy Gardner, SIC Co-Chairs

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