



# SC Annual School Report Card Summary

River Springs Elementary  
 Lexington/Richland 5  
 Grades: K-5 Enrollment: 642  
 Principal: Melanie Cohen  
 Superintendent: Dr. Herbert M. Berg  
 Board Chair: Robert Gantt

## PERFORMANCE

Comprehensive detail, including definitions of ratings, performance criteria, and explanations of status, is available on [www.ed.sc.gov](http://www.ed.sc.gov) and [www.eoc.sc.gov](http://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	Excellent	Excellent	TBD	TBD	Met	N/A
2008	Good	Below Average	N/A	N/A	Met	N/A
2007	Good	Below Average	N/A	N/A	Met	N/A

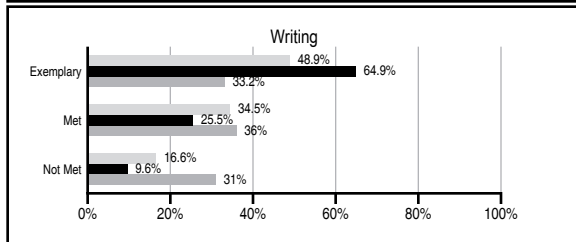
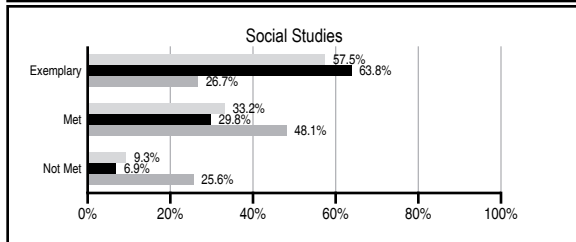
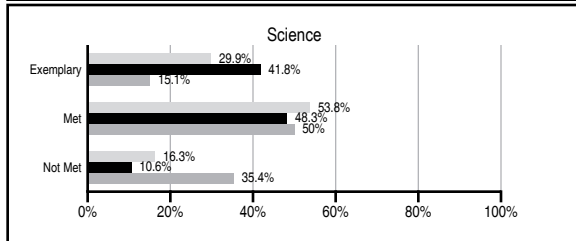
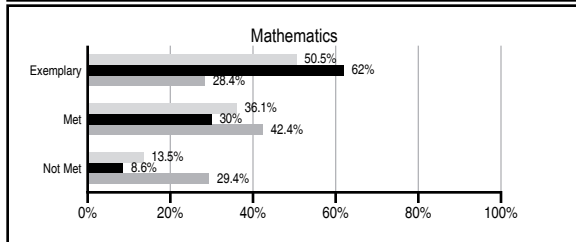
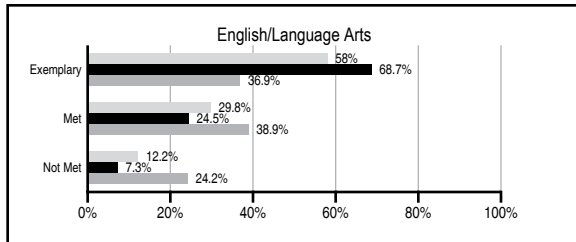
## ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS\*

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

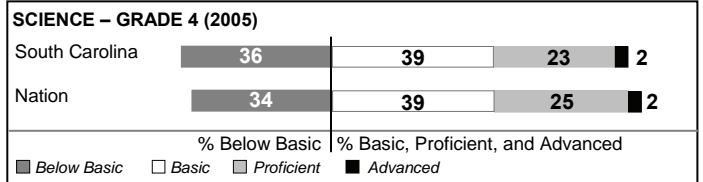
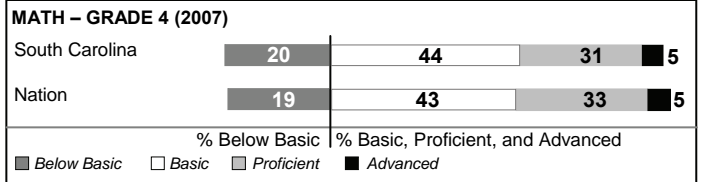
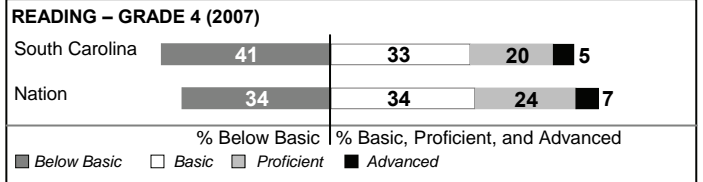
## PASS PERFORMANCE

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.



## 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

# River Springs Elementary [Lexington/Richland 5]

## SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Elementary Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Elementary School
<b>Students (n=642)</b>				
Retention rate	0.2%	Up from 0.0%	0.6%	1.9%
Attendance rate	96.8%	Down from 97.1%	97.0%	96.3%
Eligible for gifted and talented	29.3%	Down from 33.4%	30.2%	10.0%
With disabilities other than speech	2.4%	Up from 0.5%	4.5%	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%	Down from 0.2%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Teachers (n=47)</b>				
Teachers with advanced degrees	72.3%	Up from 56.3%	64.7%	59.4%
Continuing contract teachers	95.7%	Up from 91.7%	85.3%	80.0%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	84.2%	Up from 81.3%	84.7%	85.9%
Teacher attendance rate	95.5%	Up from 94.3%	95.5%	95.1%
Average teacher salary*	\$50,464	Up 4.8%	\$50,883	\$47,149
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	Down from 0.4%	0.0%	0.0%
Professional development days/teacher	9.2 days	Down from 14.3 days	9.3 days	11.1 days
<b>School</b>				
Principal's years at school	1.0	Down from 2.0	5.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	19.5 to 1	Down from 20.2 to 1	20.7 to 1	18.8 to 1
Prime instructional time	91.6%	Up from 90.7%	91.7%	90.4%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	No Change	100.0%	100.0%
Character development program	Good	Down from Excellent	Excellent	Excellent
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$7,891	Up 0.5%	\$6,450	\$7,458
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	63.5%	Down from 64.6%	68.5%	68.8%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	62.0%	Down from 63.0%	64.9%	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	42	87	51
Percent satisfied with learning environment	88.1%	91.9%	86.3%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	100.0%	87.1%	88.2%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	97.5%	96.6%	82.0%

\*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

River Springs Elementary School, one of 12 elementary schools in District Five of Lexington and Richland Counties, experienced dramatic changes in enrollment from a low of 502 students in 1998 to an almost doubled increase of 969 in 2001-02. For the past 4-5 years, enrollment has remained around 640 students in K-5. The majority of the teachers have been at the school since it opened in 1998, adding the benefit of stability and experience. There are 53 certified teachers on staff, nine of which are National Board Certified. Teachers on continuing contracts participate in performance-based evaluations (GBEs) and pursue areas of interest identified in the district's Inquiry Group Cohorts. Through these methods of professional development, teachers are able to develop strengths and focus on personal and professional improvement.

Leadership remained the same during the first eight years of the school's existence and then a three-year period of transition took place between 2006-09. Through all of this, the school maintained an excellent academic standing in the state and consistently won awards and honors, including winning the prestigious SC Palmetto Goal Award six times. River Springs has consistently met all requirements under Federal regulations of No Child Left Behind and continues to meet Annual Yearly Progress. While the school is indeed proud of the many accomplishments in past years, we felt the time had come to place stronger emphasis on student academic achievement as we enter a new level of accountability in education. Our PACT test scores have been above state levels and, in some cases, higher than other elementary schools in the district and state. The goal for RSES this year was to focus on three areas: the individual strengths and talents of each child, a balanced curriculum that was relevant and challenging, and instruction that was motivating and stimulating. Teachers analyzed all data, including student demographics, standardized test scores, Dominic assessments, and staff development to improve instruction and promote learning. Communication between the school and home was constant and successful with more parents than ever before coming into the school to volunteer and attend parent-teacher conferences. Related Arts continued to be a vital part of the instructional program at RSES. This year, it provided students with a broad spectrum of possibilities that addressed the still undiscovered artistic talents of many of our students. The staff, School Improvement Council (SIC), and Parent-Teacher Organization (PTO) helped prepare the annual school renewal plan for 2008-09. This plan focused on measurable student academic goals in ELA and mathematics, an increase in home-school communication, professional development opportunities that included literacy, data analysis, and an increase in the use of technology (SMARTboards) by teachers and students. Parent and community involvement played a key role in this successful year at RSES, and two groups largely responsible were the PTO and the SIC. This year the PTO volunteered hundreds of hours in the school, raised money to purchase books for the literacy program, provided staff development opportunities for teachers to attend conferences, and formed educational partnerships with local restaurants and businesses. The SIC assisted the school administration in reviewing school initiatives and improvements. They served on the SACS committees and worked with the school to develop a five-year plan for school accreditation in 2010.

Respectfully submitted,  
Sandra A. Williamson, RSES Interim Principal  
Stephen Daniels, SIC President

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