



SC Annual School Report Card Summary

CHOICES
Darlington
Grades: 6-12
Enrollment: 39
Principal: Ralph Porter
Superintendent: Dr. Rainey 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		
2010	At-Risk	At-Risk	TBD	TBD	Not Met	N/A
2009	At-Risk	At-Risk	N/A	N/A	Not Met	N/A
2008	At-Risk	At-Risk	N/A	N/A	Not Met	N/A

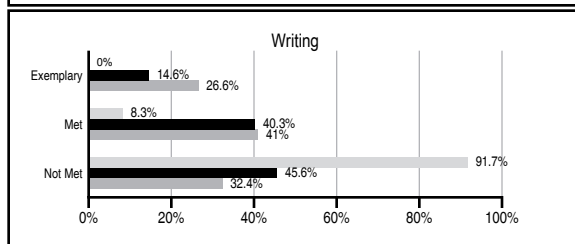
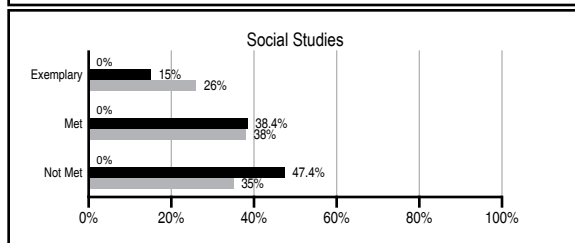
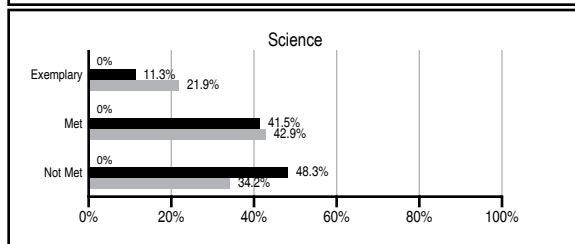
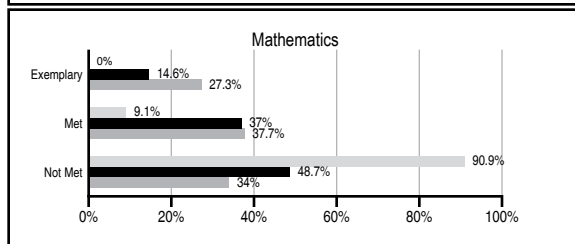
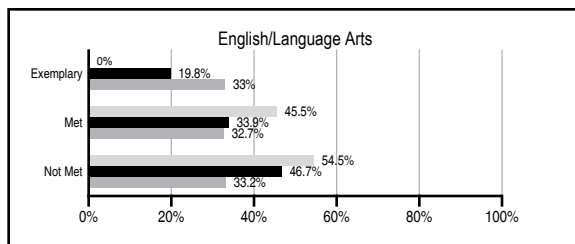
ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

EXCELLENT	GOOD	AVERAGE	BELOW AVERAGE	AT-RISK
0	0	16	28	11

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 03/09/2011. Schools with Students Like Ours are Middle Schools with Poverty Indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for this school.

PASS PERFORMANCE

Our School Middle Schools with Students Like Ours Middle schools statewide



NAEP PERFORMANCE*

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

READING – GRADE 8 (2009)

South Carolina	32	44	23	2
Nation	26	43	28	2

% Below Basic % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced

Below Basic Basic Proficient Advanced

MATH – GRADE 8 (2009)

South Carolina	31	39	23	7
Nation	29	39	25	7

% Below Basic % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced

Below Basic Basic Proficient Advanced

SCIENCE – GRADE 8 (2005)

South Carolina	31	39	23	7
Nation	29	39	25	7

% Below Basic % Basic, Proficient, and Advanced

Below Basic Basic Proficient Advanced

END OF COURSE TESTS - 2010

% of students scoring 70 or above on:	Our Middle School	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	N/A	90.7
English 1	N/A	86.1
Physical Science	N/A	72.3
US History and the Constitution	N/A	N/A
All Subjects	N/A	88.6

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

CHOICES [Darlington]

SCHOOL PROFILE

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
Students (n=39)				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	N/R	N/R	13.4%	24.2%
Retention rate	0.0%	Down from 22.0%	1.0%	0.7%
Attendance rate	89.8%	Up from 89.0%	95.2%	95.9%
Eligible for gifted and talented	0.0%	No Change	8.2%	16.4%
With disabilities other than speech	14.1%	Up from 0.0%	14.3%	12.0%
Older than usual for grade	30.8%	Up from 29.4%	4.5%	2.2%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0%	Down from 2.9%	0.5%	0.5%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=8)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	N/A	N/A	58.3%	58.5%
Continuing contract teachers	N/A	N/A	68.9%	80.0%
Teachers with emergency or provisional certificates	N/A	N/A	11.4%	4.0%
Teachers returning from previous year	N/A	N/A	79.3%	84.6%
Teacher attendance rate	100.0%	No Change	95.6%	95.4%
Average teacher salary*	N/A	N/A	\$44,768	\$46,561
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	N/A	N/A	4.7%	1.3%
Professional development days/teacher	10.0 days	Up from 5.0 days	11.3 days	10.2 days
School				
Principal's years at school	8.0	Up from 7.0	3.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	4.9 to 1	Down from 5.4 to 1	19.4 to 1	21.1 to 1
Prime instructional time	89.8%	Up from 89.0%	89.8%	90.4%
Opportunities in the arts	Poor	No Change	Good	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	Up from No	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	99.2%	Down from 100.0%	96.2%	98.1%
Character development program	Good	Up from Average	Good	Good
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$12,054	N/A	\$9,219	\$7,802
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	58.8%	N/A	61.7%	63.8%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	52.4%	N/A	56.1%	60.0%
% of AYP objectives met	60.0%	Up from 20.0%	90.5%	92.3%

* Length of contract = 185+ days.

** Prior year audited financial data available.

EVALUATION RESULTS

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percent satisfied with learning environment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	N/A	N/A	N/A
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	N/A	N/A	N/A

*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 8th year as a charter school with charter agreements with both Florence District One and Darlington County school districts. "CHOICEs" has a target population of students ages 12-17 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 possibly return to a regular traditional school, if 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 learning environment that links school to work experiences by making the right choices and staying in school. "CHOICEs" was originated by a retired police chief from the City 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. "CHOICEs" is the only alternative after expulsion besides the streets or incarceration.

"CHOICEs" is 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. "CHOICEs" leases eight acres for one dollar per month for the school location. Student enrollment has remained small, beginning with 30 students and capping off at 45.

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 who cannot return to high school. These students will pursue the GED when they turn 17.

"CHOICEs" has adopted a progressive discipline system that ensures good communications with other schools, relative to student behavior.

Ralph Porter, Executive Director

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