



Laurens School District 55 School District

1029 West Main Street

Laurens, SC 29360.00

Grades	PK-12 District	
Enrollment	5,941 Students	
Superintendent	Dr. Billy R. Strickland	864-984-3568
Board Chair	Rev. Charlie Short	864-681-3664

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2012 ANNUAL DISTRICT REPORT CARD

RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2012	Average	Excellent
2011	Below Average	Excellent
2010	Average	Below Average
2009	Below Average	Average
2008	Below Average	Below Average

DEFINITIONS OF SCHOOL RATING TERMS

- Excellent – School performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Good – School performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Average – School performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- Below Average – School is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision
- At-Risk – School performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2020 SC Performance Vision

SOUTH CAROLINA PERFORMANCE 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.

<http://ed.sc.gov>

<http://www.eoc.sc.gov>

Percent of Student PASS Records Matched for Purpose of Computing Growth Rating

Percent of students tested in 2011-12 whose 2010-11 test scores were located

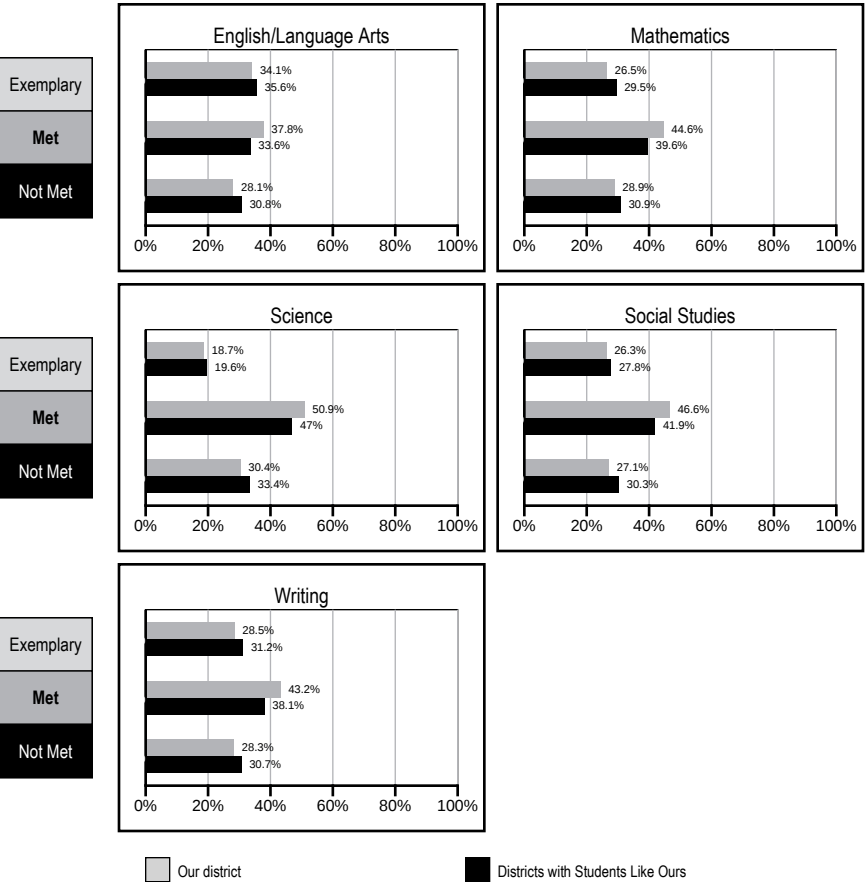
98.2%

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF DISTRICTS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
5	3	14	1	1

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 11/07/2012.

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)



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

Definition of Critical Terms

Exemplary	"Exemplary" means the student demonstrated exemplary performance in meeting the grade level standard.
Met	"Met" means the student met the grade level standard.
Not Met	"Not Met" means that the student did not meet the grade level standard.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A--Not Applicable N/AV--Not Available N/C--Not Collected N/R--Not Reported I/S--Insufficient Sample

High School Assessment Program (HSAP) Exam Passage Rate: Second Year Students

	Our District			Districts with Students Like Ours		
Percent	2010	2011	2012	2010	2011	2012
Passed both subtests	76.6%	78.8%	77.2%	75.7%	75.2%	77.1%
Passed one subtest	11.7%	12.5%	15.0%	12.2%	13.4%	13.4%
Passed no subtests	11.7%	8.8%	7.9%	12.1%	11.4%	9.6%

End of Course Tests

Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our District	Districts with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	84.6%	81.0%
English 1	74.0%	65.9%
Biology 1/Applied Biology 2	68.0%	70.8%
US History and the Constitution	61.6%	43.0%
All Subjects	72.9%	65.6%

Four-Year Cohort Graduation Rate

	Our District		Districts with Students Like Ours	
	2011*	2012	2011	2012
Number of Students in Four-Year Cohort	443	383	431	387
Number of Graduates in Cohort	305	274	319	292
Rate	68.8%	71.5%	75.1%	76.2%

*Used to calculate current ESEA/Federal Accountability Grade.

Five-Year Graduation Rate

	Our District		Districts with Students Like Ours	
	2011	2012	2011	2012
Number of Students in Cohort	409	440	433	410
Number of Graduates in Cohort	266	309	312	316
Rate	65.0%	70.2%	72.9%	78.2%

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A–Not Applicable N/AV–Not Available N/C–Not Collected N/R–Not Reported I/S–Insufficient Sample

District Profile

	Our District	Change from Last Year	Districts with Students Like Ours	Median District
Students (n=5,941)				
First graders who attended full-day kindergarten	99.1%	Down from 100.0%	99.5%	99.3%
Retention rate	3.9%	Up from 2.9%	2.2%	2.0%
Attendance rate	95.9%	No Change	96.0%	96.1%
Served by gifted and talented program	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
With disabilities other than speech	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Older than usual for grade	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.1%	Down from 0.4%	0.4%	0.6%
Enrolled in AP/IB programs	13.9%	Down from 18.2%	8.3%	13.5%
Successful on AP/IB exams	33.3%	Up from 29.6%	48.5%	49.9%
Eligible for LIFE Scholarship	25.6%	Down from 29.7%	30.3%	30.3%
Enrolled in adult education GED or diploma programs	96	Down from 148	58	59
Completions in adult education GED or diploma programs	58	Down from 65	29	31
Annual dropout rate	4.7%	Down from 6.9%	3.1%	2.7%
Teachers (n=329)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	60.8%	Up from 60.6%	62.4%	62.4%
Continuing contract teachers	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV	N/AV
Teachers returning from previous year	92.0%	Up from 91.4%	91.3%	91.1%
Teacher attendance rate	93.9%	Down from 94.3%	95.1%	95.1%
Average teacher salary*	\$45,013	Down 1.8%	\$46,100	\$46,595
Vacancies for more than nine weeks	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.1%
Professional development days/teacher	15.5 days	Up from 14.1 days	12.1 days	12.4 days
District				
Superintendent's years at district	3.0	Up from 2.0	3.0	3.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	24.1 to 1	No Change	22.6 to 1	21.7 to 1
Prime instructional time	88.3%	Down from 89.3%	89.8%	89.9%
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$8,141	Up 60.1%	\$8,794	\$8,866
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	53.1%	Up from 50.7%	52.4%	53.1%
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	54.9%	Down from 55.3%	54.4%	55.9%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Excellent	Excellent
Number of schools	11	No Change	7	9
Number of magnet schools	0	No Change	0	0
Portable classrooms	1.4%	No Change	1.2%	1.4%
Average age in years of school facilities	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Number of schools with SACS accreditation	11.0	No Change	6.0	8.0
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	Up from 97.8%	99.6%	99.5%
Average administrator salary	\$80,794	Up 0.1%	\$77,514	\$77,744

* Includes current year teachers contracted for 185 or more days.

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A--Not Applicable

N/AV--Not Available

N/C--Not Collected

N/R--Not Reported

I/S--Insufficient Sample

Performance By Student Groups

	HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2012		End of Course Tests Passage Rate		On-time Graduation Rate, 2012	
	n	%	t	%	n	%
All Students	334	88.6%	1654	72.9%	383	71.5%
Gender						
Male	175	87.4%	893	71.8%	198	69.7%
Female	159	89.9%	760	74.2%	185	73.5%
Racial/Ethnic Group						
White	208	91.8%	1059	79.2%	233	74.2%
African American	108	83.3%	478	59.0%	125	67.2%
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	16	81.3%	111	72.1%	21	66.7%
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disability Status						
Disabled	39	51.3%	186	37.6%	51	37.3%
Migrant Status						
Migrant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
English Proficiency						
Limited English Proficient	12	83.3%	90	71.1%	17	64.7%
Socio-Economic Status						
Subsidized meals	180	82.2%	1028	67.0%	216	64.8%

NOTE: n=number of students on which percentage is calculated; t=number of tests taken.

HSAP Passage Rate by Spring 2012

	Our District	Districts with Students Like Ours
Percent	88.6%	90.4%

College Admissions Tests

SAT	Critical Reading		Math		Writing		Total			
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012		
District	461	445	494	471	437	426	1392	1342		
State	479	477	489	487	459	458	1427	1422		
Nation	493	491	506	505	482	481	1481	1477		
ACT	English		Math		Reading		Science		Total	
	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012	2011	2012
District	16.3	17.2	18.8	19.1	17.4	18.6	18.8	18.5	17.9	18.5
State	19.0	19.1	20.1	20.1	20.0	20.1	19.9	19.9	19.9	19.9
Nation	20.6	20.5	21.1	21.1	21.3	21.3	20.9	20.9	21.1	21.1

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A–Not Applicable N/AV–Not Available N/C–Not Collected N/R–Not Reported I/S–Insufficient Sample

School District Governance

Board Membership	7 trustees elected to single-member seats
Fiscal Authority	District Board/Legislative Delegation
Average Number of Hours of Training Annually	13.4 per board member
Percent New Trustees Completing Orientation	N/A

District Superintendent's Report

Laurens School District 55 marked accomplishments despite the ongoing reduced state funding. By continuing to implement cost-saving measures involving all areas of operations, the district has maintained a stable financial position. Grant awards provided over \$500,000 for additional student resources. In our instructional program, we continue providing quality learning opportunities to meet the needs of our diverse students. Technology provides students access to various instructional software to assist with enriching and expanding student knowledge. Software programs range from providing access to software for reinforcing academic skills 24 hours a day to helping teach Latin to gifted and talented students to customized instruction for individual students. We have a longstanding tradition of excellence in our fine arts program. Kaleidoscope Showcase of the Arts, a weeklong schedule of activities involving all schools, takes place in the business district and is a joint effort with community partners. One of the districts major goals is to use data to drive the districts decisions and to individualize student instruction. Each school used its data to create a plan for improvement in the areas of student achievement, teacher/administrator quality and school climate. Professional growth is an important component in our districts commitment of having a highly qualified teacher in every classroom. Employees participated in over 3,000 hours of training provided by the district mostly in after-hours mini-courses. Our district child nutrition director was named the South Carolina Food Service Director of the Year. The transition program, which prepares students with disabilities to make the transition from school to the community and employment, received the Outstanding Program award from the South Carolina Council of Exceptional Children, division of Transition and Career Development. Our district is one of two districts in South Carolina to receive the designation to the College Boards second annual AP Honor Roll for significant gains in Advanced Placement access and student performance. Nine of our eleven schools received a Palmetto Silver award, which recognizes schools for academic achievement and closing achievement gaps. Parent, student, and teachers of the year advisory councils meet with the superintendent and staff throughout the year to share ideas, discuss initiatives, and provide and receive information on issues confronting the schools. These discussions help in planning for the future as the district embraces its vision, mission, and beliefs and focuses on community engagement and improving student test scores. The district implemented a five-year capital needs plan for the purpose of maintaining buildings and equipment in a clean and safe manner and planning for the repair and/or replacement of buildings and equipment. The Board of Trustees provides vision and valuable leadership and regularly recognizes staff and students for outstanding achievement. The Board of Trustees and administration appreciate your involvement in and support of our schools. Please feel free to contact me, the assistant superintendents, principals, and other school leaders whenever you have questions or concerns.

Billy R. Strickland, Ed.D. Superintendent

ESEA/Federal Accountability Rating System

South Carolina uses new Annual Measures of Objectives (AMOs) that are based on actual school performance as measured by student test scores on the state standards assessments and end-of-course exams.

Overall Weighted Points Total	84.3
Overall Grade Conversion	B
Points Total - Elementary Grades	78.7
Points Total - Middle Grades	92.3
Points Total - High School Grades	75.6

Index Score	Grade	Description
90-100	A	Performance substantially exceeds the state's expectations.
80-89.9	B	Performance exceeds the state's expectations.
70-79.9	C	Performance meets the state's expectations.
60-69.9	D	Performance does not meet the state's expectations.
Less than 60	F	Performance is substantially below the state's expectations

Accountability Indicator (Title I Schools)

The Laurens School District 55 School District consists of 11 public schools with 4 of these schools, or 36.4%, in improvement status.

School	Status
Hickory Tavern Elementary	Reward-Performance
E B Morse Elementary	Focus
Laurens Elementary	Reward-Performance
Waterloo Elementary	Reward-Performance

Accountability Indicator Definitions

Title I Reward Schools for Performance are among the highest performing Title I schools in a given year.

Title I Reward Schools for Progress are Title I schools that demonstrates the most substantial progress in identified subgroups of students.

Title I Focus Schools are Title I schools with the highest average performance gap between subgroups.

Title I Priority Schools are the 5% lowest performing Title I schools.

Performance By Group

Subgroups	ELA Mean	Math Mean	Science Mean	Social Studies Mean	ELA % Tested	Math % Tested
Grades 3-5						
All Students	650.4	642.6	618.3	628.4	100.0	100.0
Male	646.8	644.8	621.7	630.3	100.0	100.0
Female	654.2	640.3	614.8	626.5	99.9	99.9
White	663.6	652.4	630.4	637.5	99.9	99.9
African American	632.6	625.9	600.7	611.5	100.0	100.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0
Hispanic	622.7	631.9	600.0	622.1	100.0	100.0
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0
Disabled	615.5	609.8	587.4	604.0	100.0	100.0
Limited English Proficient	618.8	630.0	596.5	618.3	100.0	100.0
Subsidized meals	639.8	635.0	609.9	621.0	100.0	100.0
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	630.0	630.0	630.0	630.0	95.0	95.0
Grades 6-8						
All Students	642.7	641.2	629.5	632.2	100.0	100.0
Male	636.8	638.8	629.2	636.9	100.0	100.0
Female	648.7	643.6	629.8	627.6	99.9	99.9
White	652.8	649.7	641.2	640.2	99.9	99.9
African American	625.8	625.0	609.5	616.9	100.0	100.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0
Hispanic	622.7	631.9	600.0	622.1	100.0	100.0
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	100.0	100.0
Disabled	601.8	596.8	588.2	597.9	100.0	100.0
Limited English Proficient	627.1	639.8	617.0	623.3	100.0	100.0
Subsidized meals	635.5	633.7	621.5	624.7	100.0	100.0
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	624.0	624.0	624.0	624.0	95.0	95.0
Grades 9-12						
All Students	230	231	72	71	98.4	98.4
Male	227	231	72	71	98.0	98.0
Female	234	232	72	70	98.9	98.9
White	235	236	75	72	97.6	97.6
African American	222	221	68	69	100.0	100.0
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	95	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	224	228	66	70	100.0	100.0
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disabled	207	205	63	63	95.5	95.5
Limited English Proficient	223	229	64	70	100.0	100.0
Subsidized meals	226	226	70	70	98.3	98.3
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	223	220	76	71	95	95

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A--Not Applicable N/AV--Not Available N/C--Not Collected N/R--Not Reported I/S--Insufficient Sample

PASS Performance By Grade Level

	Grade	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Not Met	% Met	% Exemplary	% Met or Exemplary
English/Language Arts							
2011	3	432	99.8	24	29.9	46.1	76
	4	436	100	33.8	47.5	18.6	66.2
	5	426	100	19.4	47.2	33.4	80.6
	6	468	99.8	32.4	34.8	32.8	67.6
	7	467	100	33.9	34.4	31.7	66.1
	8	436	99.8	41.3	34.1	24.5	58.7
2012	3	440	100	21.8	26.5	51.8	78.2
	4	421	99.8	27.6	43.3	29.1	72.4
	5	413	100	28.6	49	22.4	71.4
	6	448	100	30.8	31.5	37.8	69.2
	7	461	100	34.3	37.3	28.4	65.7
	8	455	100	25.8	40.9	33.3	74.2
Mathematics							
2011	3	432	100	35.5	31.5	33	64.5
	4	436	100	31.6	47.3	21.1	68.4
	5	426	100	20.9	46.2	32.9	79.1
	6	468	99.8	31.9	49.3	18.8	68.1
	7	467	100	33.3	41.8	24.9	66.7
	8	435	100	38	46.2	15.9	62
2012	3	440	100	31.4	34.7	34	68.6
	4	420	99.8	27	43.6	29.4	73
	5	413	100	30.2	50.3	19.6	69.8
	6	448	100	24.9	44.5	30.5	75.1
	7	461	99.8	30.3	47.4	22.3	69.7
	8	455	100	30.8	47.9	21.2	69.2
Science							
2011	3	216	100	44.4	37.6	18	55.6
	4	435	100	42.3	49.6	8.1	57.7
	5	214	100	34.8	52.9	12.3	65.2
	6	231	100	38.8	49.1	12.1	61.2
	7	467	100	31.5	51.7	16.9	68.5
	8	214	100	35.9	35.4	28.6	64.1
2012	3	220	100	42.5	38.7	18.9	57.5
	4	420	99.8	30.1	61.5	8.3	69.9
	5	210	100	37.3	48.8	13.9	62.7
	6	224	99.6	29.8	57.2	13	70.2
	7	459	100	25.5	49.9	24.6	74.5
	8	226	100	22.5	42.7	34.9	77.5

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A--Not Applicable

N/AV--Not Available

N/C--Not Collected

N/R--Not Reported

I/S--Insufficient Sample

PASS Performance By Grade Level

	Grade	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Not Met	% Met	% Exemplary	% Met or Exemplary
Social Studies							
2011	3	216	100	32.4	41.7	26	67.6
	4	436	100	35	54.4	10.5	65
	5	212	99.5	28.7	41.1	30.2	71.3
	6	238	100	28.1	54.3	17.6	71.9
	7	466	100	34.2	33.3	32.4	65.8
	8	222	100	31.1	40.6	28.3	68.9
2012	3	220	100	23.7	41.4	34.9	76.3
	4	420	99.8	22.1	57.8	20.1	77.9
	5	203	98	47.7	39.9	12.4	52.3
	6	228	99.1	24.2	53.5	22.3	75.8
	7	461	100	29.9	41.5	28.6	70.1
	8	229	100	18.6	42.3	39.1	81.4
Writing							
2011	3	N/A	N/AV	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	4	N/A	N/AV	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	5	428	99.1	22.5	43.1	34.3	77.5
	6	N/A	N/AV	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	7	N/A	N/AV	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	8	432	99.3	37	42.4	20.6	63
2012	3	N/A	N/AV	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	4	N/A	N/AV	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	5	415	99.5	33.3	47.5	19.3	66.8
	6	N/A	N/AV	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	7	N/A	N/AV	I/S	I/S	I/S	I/S
	8	456	99.6	23.9	39.3	36.8	76.1

Abbreviations for Missing Data

N/A–Not Applicable N/AV–Not Available N/C–Not Collected N/R–Not Reported I/S–Insufficient Sample

Two-Year HSAP Trend Data

	School Year	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Below Basic	% Basic	% Proficient	% Advanced	School % Proficient or Advanced*
English/Language Arts								
All Students	2011	N/A	98.2	9.6	32.1	32.1	26.2	65.9
	2012	204	100.0	11.1	38.9	32.3	17.7	62.6
Mathematics								
All Students	2011	N/A	98.2	19.2	32.1	29.7	19.0	60.3
	2012	204	100.0	24.7	32.8	23.2	19.2	55.6

Teacher Quality and Student Attendance

	Our District	State
Classes in low poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	N/A	2.6%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.0%	5.1%

	Our District	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	0.1%	0.0%	No
Student attendance rate, grades K-8	95.9%	94.0%*	Yes

* Adjusted to account for natural variation in performance.
** Or greater than last year

Abbreviations for Missing Data