



SC Connections Academy

220 Stoneridge Drive,
Columbia, SC 29210

Grades	K-12 Middle School	
Enrollment	2,885 Students	
Principal	Allison R. Reaves	803-212-4712
Superintendent	Wayne Brazell, Ph. D.	803-734-8322
Board Chair	Don McLaurin	803-603-1441

THE STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA 2013 ANNUAL SCHOOL REPORT CARD

RATINGS OVER 5-YEAR PERIOD

YEAR	ABSOLUTE RATING	GROWTH RATING
2013	Average	Average
2012	Average	Average
2011	Average	Average
2010	Average	Average
2009	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 2012-13 whose 2011-12 test scores were located

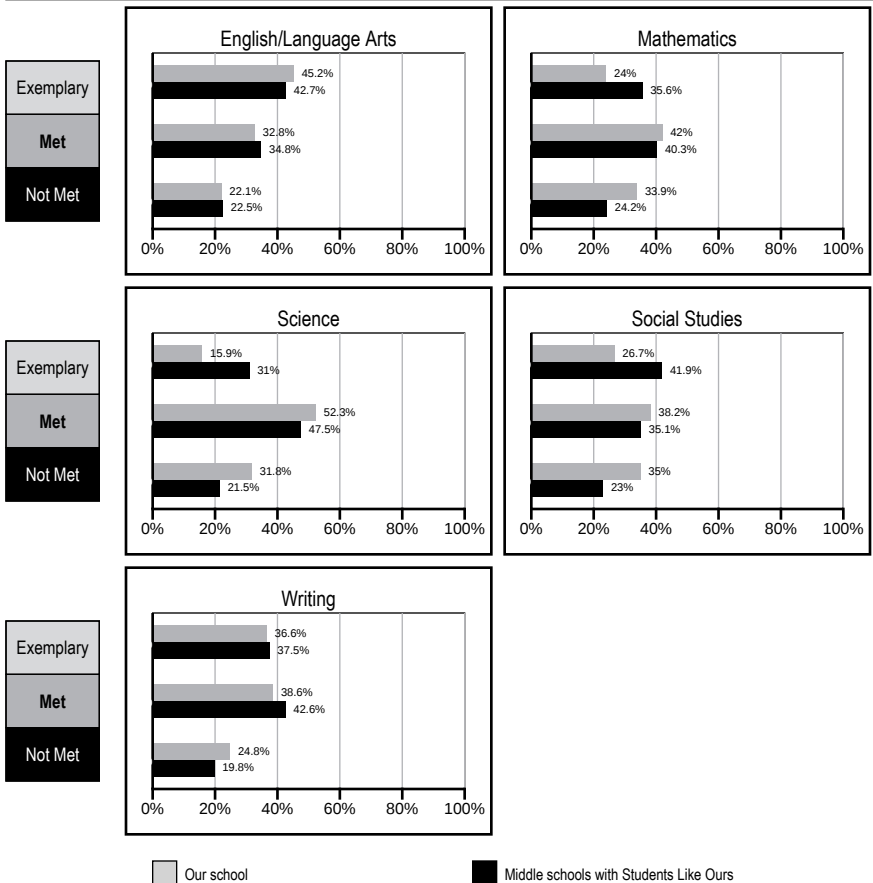
85.2%

ABSOLUTE RATINGS OF MIDDLE SCHOOLS WITH STUDENTS LIKE OURS*

Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At-Risk
14	16	11	0	0

* Ratings are calculated with data available by 03/14/2014.

Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)



* Middle schools with Students Like Ours are middle schools with poverty indices of no more than 5% above or below the index for the school.

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

End of Course Tests

Percent of tests with scores of 70 or above on:	Our Middle School	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours
Algebra 1/Math for the Technologies 2	91.2%	98.3%
English 1	100.0%	94.6%
Physical Science	N/A	N/A
US History and the Constitution	N/A	0%
All Subjects	92.4%	97.7%

School Profile

	Our School	Change from Last Year	Middle Schools with Students Like Ours	Median Middle School
Students (n=2,885)				
Students enrolled in high school credit courses (grades 7 & 8)	13.4%	Down from 13.6%	25.9%	24.6%
Retention rate	3.4%	Up from 2.9%	0.4%	0.6%
Attendance rate	96.7%	Down from 98.3%	96.3%	95.9%
Served by gifted and talented program	7.5%	N/A	24.1%	18.5%
With disabilities	9.2%	N/A	11.7%	13.0%
Older than usual for grade	7.6%	N/A	3.8%	4.8%
Out-of-school suspensions or expulsions for violent and/or criminal offenses	0.0%	No Change	0.6%	0.6%
Annual dropout rate	0.0%	No Change	0.0%	0.0%
Teachers (n=78)				
Teachers with advanced degrees	57.7%	Up from 51.4%	61.5%	61.5%
Continuing contract teachers	87.2%	Up from 73.0%	78.9%	77.2%
Teachers returning from previous year	87.2%	Up from 81.6%	88.5%	85.9%
Teacher attendance rate	94.4%	Down from 96.0%	94.4%	94.9%
Average teacher salary*	\$36,017	Up 1.2%	\$47,803	\$47,313
Professional development days/teacher	14.2 days	Up from 12.4 days	11.4 days	10.1 days
School				
Principal's years at school	4.0	Up from 3.0	5.0	4.0
Student-teacher ratio in core subjects	N/R	N/R	23.5 to 1	22.1 to 1
Prime instructional time	90.5%	Down from 94.0%	89.7%	89.6%
Opportunities in the arts	Good	No Change	Excellent	Good
SACS accreditation	Yes	No Change	Yes	Yes
Parents attending conferences	100.0%	No Change	99.8%	99.0%
Character development program	Good	Down from Excellent	Good	Good
Dollars spent per pupil**	\$5,730	Up 11.8%	\$6,765	\$7,239
Percent of expenditures for instruction**	88.0%	Up from 83.0%	65.0%	63.0%
Percent of expenditures for teacher salaries**	43.0%	Down from 52.6%	63.0%	61.0%

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

** Prior year audited financial data are reported.

Report of Principal and School Improvement Council

South Carolina Connections Academy (SCCA) is an AdvancED accredited, pioneering, public virtual charter school that opened during the 2008-2009 school year as a member of the SC Public Charter School District. SCCA offers a premier online education to students in grades K-12 regardless of where they reside in the state. Our curriculum is aligned to common core standards and meets national and state standards while simultaneously meeting the personal needs of all of our students. Students progress through the program under the guidance of their Learning Coach (typically a parent or guardian) in conjunction with their highly qualified SC certified teachers. Regular interaction occurs via phone, e-mail, Field Trips, and live web conferences. Student work is then submitted online for teacher review. Our user friendly Education Management System (EMS) includes: coursework, a daily planner, a grade book, attendance recorder, communication tools, a virtual library, message boards, and supplemental learning programs. The EMS provides all the necessary information, at your fingertips, to successfully learn anywhere there is an internet connection. This unique system sets us apart from all other virtual charter schools.

SCCA offers advanced curriculum to Gifted and Talented students in grades 3 through 8 Science, Math, and Language Arts. These students participate in a Literature Study course using the Junior Great Books series. Teachers in our Special Education Department serve students according to Individualized Education Plans or 504 plans. Students requiring speech services participate in Virtual Speech sessions. Occupational Therapy, Physical Therapy, and Speech Services are also provided through contracted, certified providers. Our high school program includes approximately 1,161 students across the state. The selection of courses we offer is varied and challenging. Students are able to study Foreign Languages such as Mandarin Chinese, Latin, French, and Spanish. We also offer 20 Advanced Placement courses and a variety of college preparatory electives. Our graduation requirements are more rigorous than the state mandates. SCCA requires all students to successfully complete two years of foreign languages or humanities. In addition, a full year of health and a full year of American Government are required.

In an effort to create a sense of community, various Field Trips and teacher created face-to-face learning experiences were planned statewide. These opportunities allowed students, parents, and teachers to interact and socialize. Over 100 opportunities were held during the 2012-2013 school year including museum, zoo and aquarium tours; environmental awareness activities; an arts festival featuring student work; academic hands on activities; a Field Day, and Graduation.

Allison R. Reaves
SCCA Executive Director

Tracey Williams
SIC Chair

Evaluations by Teachers, Students and Parents

	Teachers	Students*	Parents*
Number of surveys returned	21	90	124
Percent satisfied with learning environment	100%	93.3%	95.1%
Percent satisfied with social and physical environment	86.3%	94%	79.5%
Percent satisfied with school-home relations	95.4%	95.5%	92.1%

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

Abbreviations for Missing Data

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

ESEA/Federal Accountability Rating System

In July 2013, the South Carolina Department of Education was granted a waiver from several accountability requirements of the federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). This waiver allowed SC to replace the former pass/fail system with one that utilizes more of the statewide assessments already in place and combine these subject area results with graduation rate (in high schools) to determine if each school met the target or made progress toward the target. This analysis results in a letter grade for the school rather than the pass/fail system of previous years. For a detailed review of the matrix for each school and districts that determined the letter grade, please use the following link: <http://ed.sc.gov/data/eSEA/> or request this information from your child's district or school.

Overall Weighted Points Total	77.9
Overall Grade Conversion	C

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 for Title I Schools

SC Connections Academy school has been designated as a:

- ☐ Title I Reward School for Performance - among the highest performing Title I schools in a given year.
- ☐ Title I Reward School for Progress – one of the schools with substantial progress in student subgroups.
- ☐ Title I Focus School – one of the schools with the highest average performance gap between subgroups.
- ☐ Title I Priority School – one of the 5% lowest performing Title I schools.
- ☐ Title I School – does not qualify as Reward, Focus or Priority School.
- ☒ Non-Title I School – therefore the designations above are not applicable.

Teacher Quality and Student Attendance

	Our District	State
Classes in low poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	11.8%	2.3%
Classes in high poverty schools not taught by highly qualified teachers	14.8%	4.9%

	Our School	State Objective	Met State Objective
Classes not taught by highly qualified teachers	3.2%	0.0%	No
Student attendance rate	96.7%	94.0%*	Yes

* Or greater than last year

Abbreviations for Missing Data

Performance By Group

Subgroups	ELA Mean	Math Mean	Science Mean	Social Studies Mean	ELA % Tested	Math % Tested
Grades 6-8						
All Students	657.7	639.1	619.1	623.2	98.9	98.9
Male	655.3	641.7	623.2	631.3	98.4	98.4
Female	659.8	636.8	615.6	616.0	99.4	99.4
White	659.6	641.1	620.8	625.0	99.0	99.1
African American	636.7	617.2	598.1	606.9	98.1	97.7
Asian/Pacific Islander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Hispanic	667.8	642.7	626.8	616.3	100.0	100.0
American Indian/Alaskan	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Disabled	607.3	601.2	574.0	590.4	98.8	98.8
Limited English Proficient	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Subsidized meals	646.7	629.7	608.6	614.0	98.5	98.5
Annual Measurable Objective (AMO)	628.0	628.0	628.0	628.0	95.0	95.0

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PASS Performance By Grade Level

	Grade	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Not Met	% Met	% Exemplary	% Met or Exemplary
English/Language Arts							
2012	3	124	96.8	23.2	21.2	55.6	76.8
	4	179	98.3	21	37.8	41.3	79
	5	215	98.6	24.3	37.9	37.9	75.7
	6	269	99.3	20.6	25.8	53.6	79.4
	7	292	99	16.9	32.9	50.2	83.1
	8	360	99.2	27.1	30.2	42.7	72.9
2013	3	143	97.9	20.4	25.7	54	79.6
	4	165	98.2	14	39.7	46.3	86
	5	215	99.1	19.4	43.9	36.7	80.6
	6	286	99.7	15.7	38.4	45.8	84.3
	7	341	99.1	21.7	32.3	46.1	78.3
	8	388	98.7	26.3	29.4	44.4	73.7
Mathematics							
2012	3	124	97.6	42.4	33.3	24.2	57.6
	4	179	98.9	35.4	44.4	20.1	64.6
	5	215	98.6	43.8	37.3	18.9	56.2
	6	269	99.6	31.9	48.1	20	68.1
	7	292	99.3	33.6	44.5	21.8	66.4
	8	360	98.9	45.7	43.7	10.6	54.3
2013	3	143	98.6	48.2	25.4	26.3	51.8
	4	165	97.6	25	49.2	25.8	75
	5	215	99.1	38.9	37.8	23.3	61.1
	6	286	99.7	32.4	40.3	27.3	67.6
	7	341	99.1	32.3	36.2	31.5	67.7
	8	388	98.7	35.8	48.8	15.4	64.2
Science							
2012	3	63	98.4	38.5	36.5	25	61.5
	4	179	98.9	35.4	61.8	2.8	64.6
	5	104	99	33.3	48.1	18.5	66.7
	6	137	100	40	52.7	7.3	60
	7	292	99	32	53.9	14.2	68
	8	178	99.4	31.8	43.4	24.8	68.2
2013	3	67	100	37.3	43.1	19.6	62.7
	4	165	98.2	24.8	62.8	12.4	75.2
	5	106	100	32.9	57.6	9.4	67.1
	6	144	100	27.3	64.5	8.2	72.7
	7	341	99.1	29.9	53.1	16.9	70.1
	8	194	99.5	38.2	42.1	19.7	61.8

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PASS Performance By Grade Level

	Grade	Enrollment 1st Day of Testing	% Tested	% Not Met	% Met	% Exemplary	% Met or Exemplary
Social Studies							
2012	3	59	96.6	52.2	32.6	15.2	47.8
	4	179	98.9	27.8	55.6	16.7	72.2
	5	111	97.3	36	43	20.9	64
	6	132	97	26.3	55.6	18.2	73.7
	7	292	98.6	46.6	38.4	15.1	53.4
	8	182	98.4	34.1	48.4	17.5	65.9
2013	3	76	97.4	41.3	44.4	14.3	58.7
	4	165	97.6	28.3	45.8	25.8	71.7
	5	109	97.3	34	29.8	36.2	66
	6	142	99.3	21.7	51.9	26.4	78.3
	7	341	99.1	41.3	36.6	22	58.7
	8	191	99	31.9	31.9	36.2	68.1
Writing							
2012	3	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	4	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	5	218	97.3	38.8	37.6	23.5	61.2
	6	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	7	N/A	N/AV	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	8	356	97.5	24.3	39.2	36.5	75.7
2013	3	148	95.3	44.2	30.1	25.7	55.8
	4	160	98.1	26.8	48.8	24.4	73.2
	5	211	99.1	32	40.3	27.6	68
	6	279	98.9	25	42.3	32.7	75
	7	336	97.9	23.3	38.1	38.5	76.7
	8	388	97.7	23.2	37.7	39.1	76.8

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