



Horry County Schools

2009

Progress Report

About HCS



Horry County Schools is a county-wide school system, serving a county of 257,000 people along the Atlantic Coastline of northeastern South Carolina. It encompasses 49 schools in the nine attendance areas of Myrtle Beach, Carolina Forest, Conway, Socastee, North Myrtle Beach, Loris, Aynor, Green Sea Floyds, and St. James. With nearly 38,000 students and more than 5,000 employees, HCS is the state's third largest school district and the county's largest employer.

There are multiple opportunities for students to take advantage of unique programs, like the Scholars' Academy that serves the highest achieving students in grades 9-12 and the Early College High School, which nurtures first generation college hopefuls. Both award-winning programs offer accelerated

opportunities to students with the option to earn college and high school credits at the same time.

The Horry County Virtual School compliments and supports the secondary curriculum by providing courses that may not be available at their school or fit into their designed schedule. These are just some of the offerings available at HCS, along with multiple dual credit opportunities delivered through Advanced Placement and

International Baccalaureate program, collaborative programs with local post-secondary schools, and the wide world of virtual learning.

HCS classrooms are infused with technology, using laptops, interactive white boards, and expanding wireless capabilities throughout the district. An innovative computer-

based assessment program for grades 2-10 measures progress in mathematics, language, and reading. Teachers receive quick results allowing them to make adjustments to the instructional program to support individual needs.

Strong academics are balanced with fine arts programs that feature visual and performing arts, with orchestra, band, chorus, and drama available at middle and high schools. Foreign language is available middle school and high school. High school athletics include football, basketball, baseball, track and field, softball, volleyball, wrestling, soccer, cheerleading, golf and tennis.

Celebrations

- Seventeen elementary, middle and high schools are among more than 400 public schools to have earned recognition for academic achievement and closing achievement gaps in 2009.
- Student performance on standardized tests outpaces the state average in 23 out of 24 areas tested.
- Horry County Schools' SAT composite score of 1,479 is 27 points above the state average.
- Performance on the 2009 ACT exceeded the state average in a year when 20 percent more students took the test. HCS students maintained an average of 20.
- The number of Advanced Placement exams among students increased by 47 percent.
- HCS ranks first in South Carolina and eighth in the nation for the number of teachers earning National Board Certification this year. With 76 newly-named teachers, 13 percent of the HCS teaching staff has national credentials.
- HCS 10th graders improved performance on the High School Assessment Program (HSAP) examination and continue to outpace the state average on the test. This year, 83.5 percent of 10th graders passed the state's high school exit exam on their first attempt, a 1.6 point increase over the previous year.



Building Program

In 2009, Horry County Schools continued to work on projects included in the Phase III Building Program. Additions/renovations at Forestbrook Elementary, Lakewood Elementary and Waccamaw Elementary were completed. Construction continues on the new District Office at the former Aynor Conway Career Center. Additions planned for Forestbrook Middle and Myrtle Beach Middle are finishing up the design phase and will be bid soon.



Finances

2009-10 Consolidated Budget

Revenue:

Local	260,728,347.00	.....58.84%
Intergovernmental	1,562.00	.....0.00%
State	131,316,290.00	.....29.64%
Federal	42,715,283.00	.....9.64%
Other.....	8,345,072.00	.....1.88%
TOTAL	443,106,554.00	.....100.00%

Expenditures:

Instruction	234,718,979.00	.....46.58%
Supporting Services	144,369,125.00	.....28.65%
Community Services	1,570,536.00	.....0.31%
Debt Services	61,164,578.00	.....12.14%
Facilities & Const. Svs.....	50,861,714.00	.....10.09%
Other.....	11,264,719.00	.....2.24%
TOTAL	503,949,651.00	.....100.00%

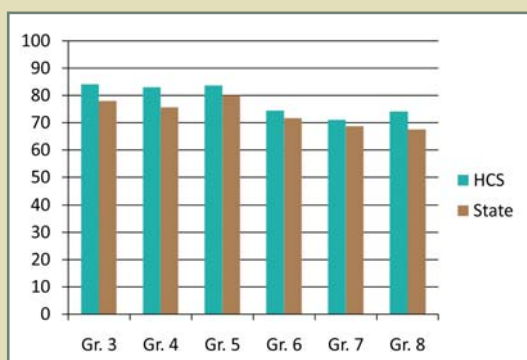
Horry County Schools Academic Achievement - 2009

PASS

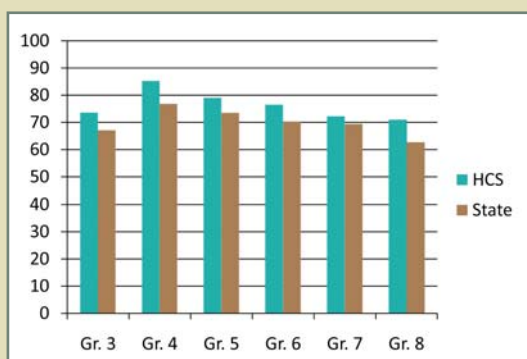
Test results from the initial administration of South Carolina's Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) show that Horry County Schools' students met or exceeded the state average in 23 out of 24 tests. The percentage of students scoring at the Exemplary level exceeded the state average in all subjects at all grade levels.

PASS replaced the 10-year-old Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests (PACT) as the state's accountability measurement of student achievement for grades 3-8. State and federal laws require end-of-the-year accountability tests for grades 3-8 that are based on state academic standards. PASS results include scores in five subject areas: writing, English language arts (reading and research), mathematics, science and social studies.

English/ Language Arts



Math



AYP

As a school district, Horry County Schools met 91.9 percent or 34 out of 37 objectives for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). As a result of not meeting all 37 objectives, HCS did not make AYP. As a state, South Carolina met 34 of 37 goals and thus, fell short of meeting AYP.



SAT

Horry County Schools' composite of scores for critical reading, math, and writing is 1,479, which is 27 points above the state average of 1,452 and 30 points below the national average of 1,509.

HCS seniors averaged 491 in critical reading, 508 in math, and 479 in writing tests. Statewide, seniors averaged 486 in critical reading, 496 in math and 470 in writing tests. Nationally, seniors averaged 501 in critical reading, 515 math, and 493 in writing tests. Composite scores indicate a seven-point decrease for HCS, a nine-point decrease for South Carolina and a two-point decrease among test takers nationwide.

ACT

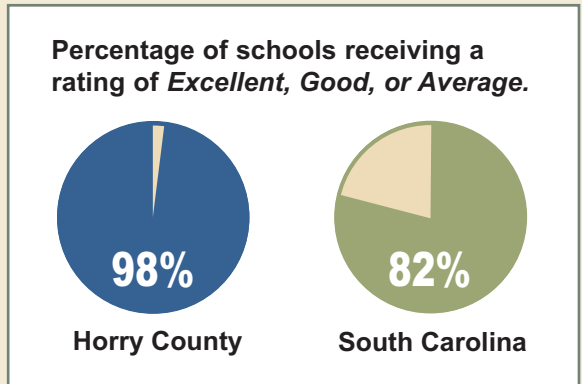
Horry County Schools' 2009 performance on the American College Testing (ACT) remained steady and exceeded the state average in a year when 20 percent more students took the test. The number of test takers climbed from 637 in 2008 to 763 in 2009. A dramatic growth in student participation is usually accompanied by a downturn in scores, which has not happened in Horry County Schools.

The average score for HCS students was 20.1, the same as it was in 2008. The 2009 state composite score of 19.7 and the national composite of 21.1 are also unchanged from the year before.

State Report Cards

State report cards issued for public schools and districts for the 2008-2009 academic year show that Horry County Schools' Absolute and Growth ratings improved over the previous year. Fifty-six percent of district schools received Absolute ratings of *Excellent* or *Good*, up from 48 percent in 2008. Twenty-eight percent of schools received Growth ratings of *Excellent* or *Good*, up from 20 percent in 2008.

Collectively, 98 percent of HCS schools received Absolute ratings of *Average* or higher, up from 82 percent in 2008. Statewide, 84 percent of schools received ratings of *Average* or higher. District-wide, 46 percent of schools improved their Absolute ratings, six percent had decreased ratings and 48 percent maintained ratings.



End-of-Course

Horry County Schools' students made improvements in the mean scale scores on two of four End-of-Course test scores in 2009. Mean scale scores improved in Algebra I and Physical Science, while dipping slightly in English I. On all four tests, HCS outpaced the State's mean scale score.

Exit Exam

In the spring of 2009, 81.3 percent of Horry County Schools' 10th graders passed the state's high school exit exam on their first attempt, a 2.2 percent decrease over 83.5 percent in 2008.



Horry County Schools

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For questions regarding the nondiscrimination policies call 843-488-6700, or write Horry County Schools, 335 Four Mile Road, Conway, SC 29526.