

Charleston > excellence is our standard  
County SCHOOL DISTRICT

STUDENTS ARE  
THE HEART  
OF OUR WORK!

2023-2024

# North Charleston High School SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL REPORT TO PARENTS



**MR. HENRY E. DARBY**  
Principal

**CHINEQUA SEABROOK**  
**ST. CLAIRE JENKINS**  
Co-Chairpersons, School Improvement Council

**NORTH CHARLESTON HIGH SCHOOL**  
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Office: 843-745-7140 - Website: <https://nchs.ccsdschools.com/>



2023-2024

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## IMPROVING ENVIRONMENT

North Charleston High School (NCHS) has improved the academic and cultural environment for each student by reducing class sizes, offering students to recover course through our new Innovation Schools initiative. The initiative are conducted in learning PODS that provide co-teaching support for the student with a specialized curriculum.

This year we are proud to announce the number of students receiving an A, B, or C on the state End-Of-Course (EOC) exam are increasing due to schoolwide EOC mini-lessons across all content areas. Also the number of students recovering credits and the number of credits recovered increased.

Our school provides a customized learning POD environment for our multilingual learners that ensures a space for the students to acquire basic English skills while receiving core content instruction.

North Charleston High School's administration, faculty, staff and School Improvement Council assure sending your child to NCHS is one of the best decisions one can make. There are outstanding teachers, qualified support staff to assist your child as well as your family and an environment which is conducive to learning. NCHS remains the right choice to educate students and is committed "To Graduating 100% of Our Students."

  
Henry Darby  
Principal





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## PROGRAMS FOR SUCCESS

### COUGAR ACADEMICS

At North Charleston High School, instruction is centered around the three R's—rigor, relevance, and relationships. To support teachers with the implementation of the three R's, the NCHS Instructional Team has developed a system of support for our educators. Educators engage in personalized professional development, professional learning communities, coaching cycles, and data conversations to build collective efficacy. NCHS educators are using these supports to embed student-centered strategies such as personalized student trackers, small group instruction, and authentic assessments. These best practices help our students to own their own learning and become life-long learners.

### SCHOOL OF INNOVATION

North Charleston High School is a School Of Innovation that utilizes a system where teacher teams are interdisciplinary in an effort to strengthen collective efficacy among staff, build interdisciplinary practices, and share best practices across content areas. NCHS focuses on rigor, relevance, and relationships.

We are proud to share the following data for this year:

- ⇒ Graduation Update
- ⇒ Credit Recovery
- ⇒ Multilingual Learners
- ⇒ College and Career Ready
- ⇒ EOC “C” or better
- ⇒ Affects of the Innovation Waiver

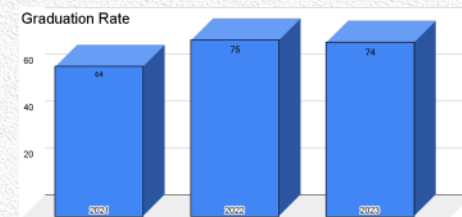
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## GRADUATION UPDATE

We are excited about our graduation rate improvement over the year considering that in 2016 the graduation rate for the school was 59.6%. We anticipate our graduation rate increasing from last year's rate of 74%. Graduation rate calculations include more than just students that graduate in June. The data includes students that dropout, are incarcerated, GED students, students that transfer to non-diploma programs, special education non-diploma track students and this not on grade level. It is North Charleston High School's goal to increase our graduation rate this year above 74%.



## CREDIT RECOVERY

NCHS's Learning Pods engage at-risk students, including exceptional children, in a learning environment where learning is personalized based on the student's individual needs. Students are able to work on coursework at their own pace in order to ensure progress toward graduation.

As of Spring 2024, 102 courses have been completed in Credit Recovery Pods during Spring 2024, which included 25 credits earned in English. Also 38 students are now on track to be promoted due to the success of Credit Recovery Pods. The seat time waiver helps our transient population when a student comes to NCHS from a school who has year-long classes or if a student with little time left in the semester recover classes.

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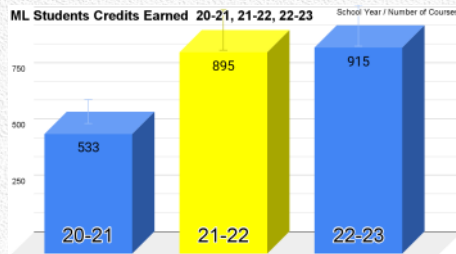


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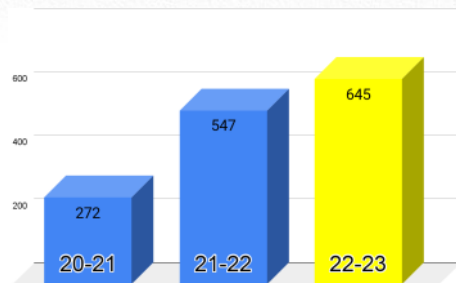
### MULTILINGUAL LEARNERS

While the graduation rate for our subgroup of MLL students increased from 65.2% in SY 21-22 to 72% in 22-23 (District rate of 72.8%) we anticipate an increase due to our innovative ML POD setting. The ML PODS provides a customized setting for non-English speakers an opportunity to learn English as well as receive core content instruction in a less intimidating environment with their peers. The data below shows the number of credits recovered, and A's and B's received by ML students over the past 3 years. We are anticipating an increase in the 23-24 data.

#### Credit Recovery



#### ML A's and B's



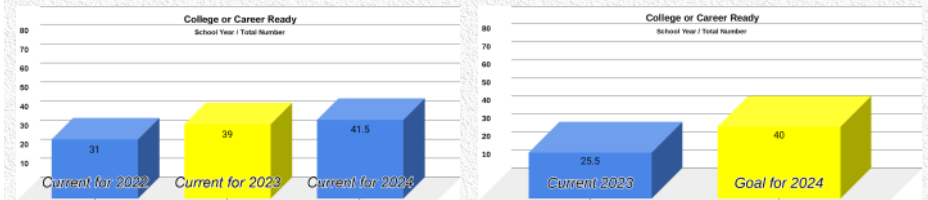
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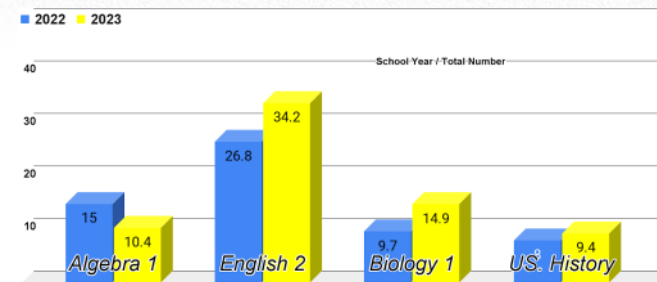
### COLLEGE AND CAREER READY

The percentage of students who are College and Career Ready increased from 31% in 2022 to 41.5% in 2024. Our ML Learners increased from 25.5% in 2023 to 40%. We implemented a plan where every student's transcript is evaluated to ensure that they are College and Career Ready prior to their Senior year.



### EOC "C" OR BETTER

End Of Course (EOC) testing is a state mandated test that assess the content learned in 4 subject areas: Algebra 1, English 2, Biology 1 and US History. We are pleased that our scores in English, Biology and US History increased last year but Algebra 1 is still an area we are working to improve.







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### **SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGISTS**

Ms. Nates works with selected students by which the school Psychologists listens to concerns about academic, emotional or social problems. Help students process their problems and plan goals and action.

### **MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELOR**

Provides various in school serviced such as conducting mental health assessments, developing individualized treatment plans, leading individual or group therapy sessions, running preventative mental wellness classes or workshops and making treatment referrals.

### **PARENT ADVOCATES**

Provides continuous support to our families through telephone calls, workshops and home visits. Provides specific outreach to parents in various forms to include workshops/trainings, one-on-one support, resource connections, etc. Participates in the development and management of the Title I, Priority Improvement budgetary plans and other special revenue allocated for North Charleston High School. Assist with graduation rate improvement through tracking, re-engaging students in diploma granting programs, assisting with truancy and numerous other tasks that aid in the students' academic success.

### **FAMILY AND COMMUNITY RESOURCE CENTER**

The new family and community center provides support services for students, parents, guardians, and our feeder schools. It offers engaging wrap-around services via support from our surrounding community, which consists of business partners, non-profits, and for profit organizations. Our goal is to work cohesively with school staff, parents and the community to develop and maintain positive home-school relationships.



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### **FOOD PANTRY AND LAUNDROMAT**

North Charleston High School currently provides a free laundromat and food pantry that is available to our families. This service offering was made possible by full sponsorship from Moving With The Military in the 2021. Laundry services will be provided to the parents by appointment during normal business hours and on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Students have access to laundry service at anytime throughout the school day with the assistant of a parenting staff member. Food pantry services are provided on an as needed basis for our students and families, to include home delivery service when available.

### **COMBINED INTERVENTION**

Combined Intervention (CI) is a company which implements a systematic process of conflict resolution and mentoring intervention for students who are identified to be suspended or expelled. Based upon the discipline needs of the students, CI will collaborate with parents, students, teachers and administrators to resolve academic and social problems of identified students. Each student will be assigned a mentor for the period of the semester; there will be home dialog with students and parents; the hosting of community forums with major stakeholders of the community such as Ministers, business men and women, retired teachers and other professionals. Teachers and administrators will be provided with methodologies and strategies to assist students in the prevention of discipline problems within the classroom. SIC meetings will be attended to discuss strategies to assist with student achievement. Students will be assisted (tutored) in subjects of deficiencies; students will be instructed in financial literacy and multiculturalism. Parents and students will be assisted with transportation only as an imperative. Students will be trained in the etiquette of manners, character, and self-respect.





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### PARK CIRCLE CARES

Park Circle Cares provides a monthly community food distribution in collaboration with the North Charleston High School and the Parenting Team to assist in minimizing hunger. This collaboration provides over 500lbs of food monthly to families not only at NCHS but throughout the lowcountry.



STEM is more than just the acronym, a curriculum or the stuff that is normally associated with the activities. Students use principles from the associate disciplines from the STEM acronym to problem solve. This allows students to use all of the disciplines that they normally learn in isolation to be applied in a variety of combinations. For example some problems will require the application of principles from the Science and Engineering discipline but nothing from Technology and Mathematics. A byproduct of using a STEM approach to educational instruction, (a derivative of project based learning) also builds a core set of competencies that I believe are the essential transferable skills (soft skills) that student need to be success. They are able to collaborate through a development process with a team of students which requires them to analyze a problem, decide what is needed to solve that problem, develop a solution, evaluate that solution and present it to groups or individuals. Additionally it allows students to solve real problems for real people that can be collected into a portfolio of work that prove that they can do what they say they can do. It is in these authentic experiences that students will find their passion and become the valued asset to the citizenry that every human being inherently strives to be.

North Charleston High School is excited to have a full-time STEM support team on campus to expose our students and the community to various STEM career opportunities.

Lynn Clegg, STEM Coordinator—North Charleston  
Cheryl Walden, STEM Community Engagement Specialist  
Antoinette Green, STEM Career Specialist





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## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

South Carolina initiated School Improvement Councils through legislation as a means of restoring the influential voice of parents and community members in public education.

The Council has focused on coordinating a time and a place where students and parents could come to the school and learn more about applying for college and receive assistance in completing applications.

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT COUNCIL

### Students

Isaiah Dunbar  
Tonique Durham

### Parents

St. Claire Jenkins  
Chinequa Seabrook

### Teachers

Latter Rosendary  
Bryanna Smalls

### Ex-Officio Members

Principal Henry Darby  
Elizabeth Bowens

### Community Members

Antoinette Green  
Cheryl Walden  
Kimberly Wise



## ABOUT THE REPORT TO PARENTS

This report is issued by the North Charleston High School Improvement Council in accordance with South Carolina law to share information on the school's progress in meeting various goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the school year.

