Purpose of this Report

This report is issued in accordance with South Carolina law, by the Whale Branch Elementary School Improvement Council - an advisory board to the principal dedicated to improving student achievement. The SIC hopes to share information on the school's progress in meeting goals and objectives, the work of the SIC, and other accomplishments during the year.

School Achievements

- 23-24 School Report Card Rating improved from Unsatisfactory to Average.
- Listed as a BCSD School of Choice

School Renewal Plan 24-25 Goals

By Spring 2025:

- Grades K-2 students scoring mid or above grade level on the i-Ready Reading Diagnostic will increase by 10%.
- Grades 3-5 students scoring Meets and Exceeds on the SC READY Reading assessment will increase by 10%.(28% meets and exceeds to 45%)

By Spring 2025:

- K-2 students scoring mid or above grade level on the i-Ready Math Diagnostic will increase by 10%.
- 3-5 students scoring Meets and Exceeds on the SC READY Math assessment will increase by 10%.(25.52% meets and exceeds to 35%)

Get in touch!

Carlos Williams, Principal
Gretchen Fritz, Assistant Principal
Shelley Krebs, Assistant Principal
Dr. Tonya Thomas, Dean of Students

15 Stuart Point Road
Seabrook, SC 29940
Office 843.466.1000 | Fax 843.466.1073

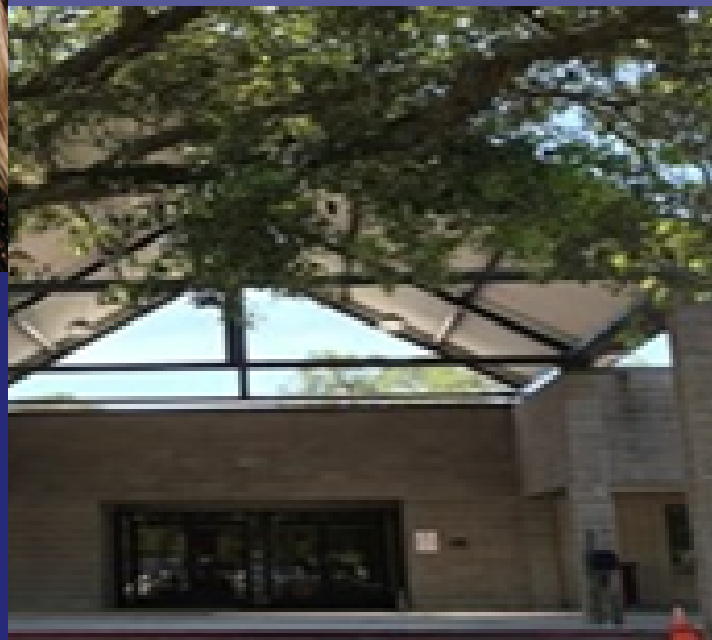




https://wbes.beaufortschools.net/
www.facebook.com/whalebranchelementary

School Improvement Council

ANNUAL REPORT TO THE PARENTS 2024-2025



> *"Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire."*

School Profile

Whale Branch Elementary School, located in rural Seabrook, SC, near the Whale Branch River, is home to 417 students. In addition to the main campus which houses 1st - 5th grade, it incorporates James J. Davis Early Learning Center, located at 364 Keans Neck Road that houses PreK and Kindergarten. We serve student populations of 74% African American, 20% two or more races, 16% Caucasian, and 13 % Hispanic/Latino.



Student Achievement

In accordance with Beaufort County School District, we use student performance data on MAP, SC Ready, and SC PASS, along with other assessments, to inform our decisions about instruction we use to support student learning. Our teachers meet in weekly PLCs (Professional Learning Communities) with our Literacy and Math coaches.

Teachers and coaches are engaged in research-based best practices that are incorporated in the lessons they teach. We encourage and support hands-on engagement and enrichment for all students, through the use of one-to-one devices in grades K-5th and S.T.E.A.M. infused activities for grades PreK - 5th.

Whale Branch Elementary School has adopted the “Leader in Me” philosophy to promote a culture of student empowerment and improved discipline. In 2019, the school scored “Average” under Student Progress on the SC School Report Card indicating that the lowest 20% of our student population made progress as compared to similar populations across the state. Teachers and staff work vigorously each day to help students meet the profile of a South Carolina graduate.

At Whale Branch Elementary School (WBES), students develop world-class skills and characteristics to expand their life and career capabilities as proposed in the South Carolina Profile of the Graduate. WBES uses the Leader in Me framework to enhance school culture, which enables students to determine their strengths and responsibilities while expanding their competencies.

WBES is proud to be a MedTech7 school, providing a technology focus along with arts integration for all students. Project Lead the Way Launch provides students with technology focused real-world experiences for students to prepare them for success in the education and beyond. WBES' high expectations for learning and development challenges both teachers and students.

Highly-trained instructional coaches and master teachers engage teachers with innovative practices in weekly professional development activities. WBES determines goals and explores strategies collaboratively to improve the educational program for students.