GUIDE TO THE 2018

SC SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

SC EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Reporting facts. Measuring change. Promoting progress.

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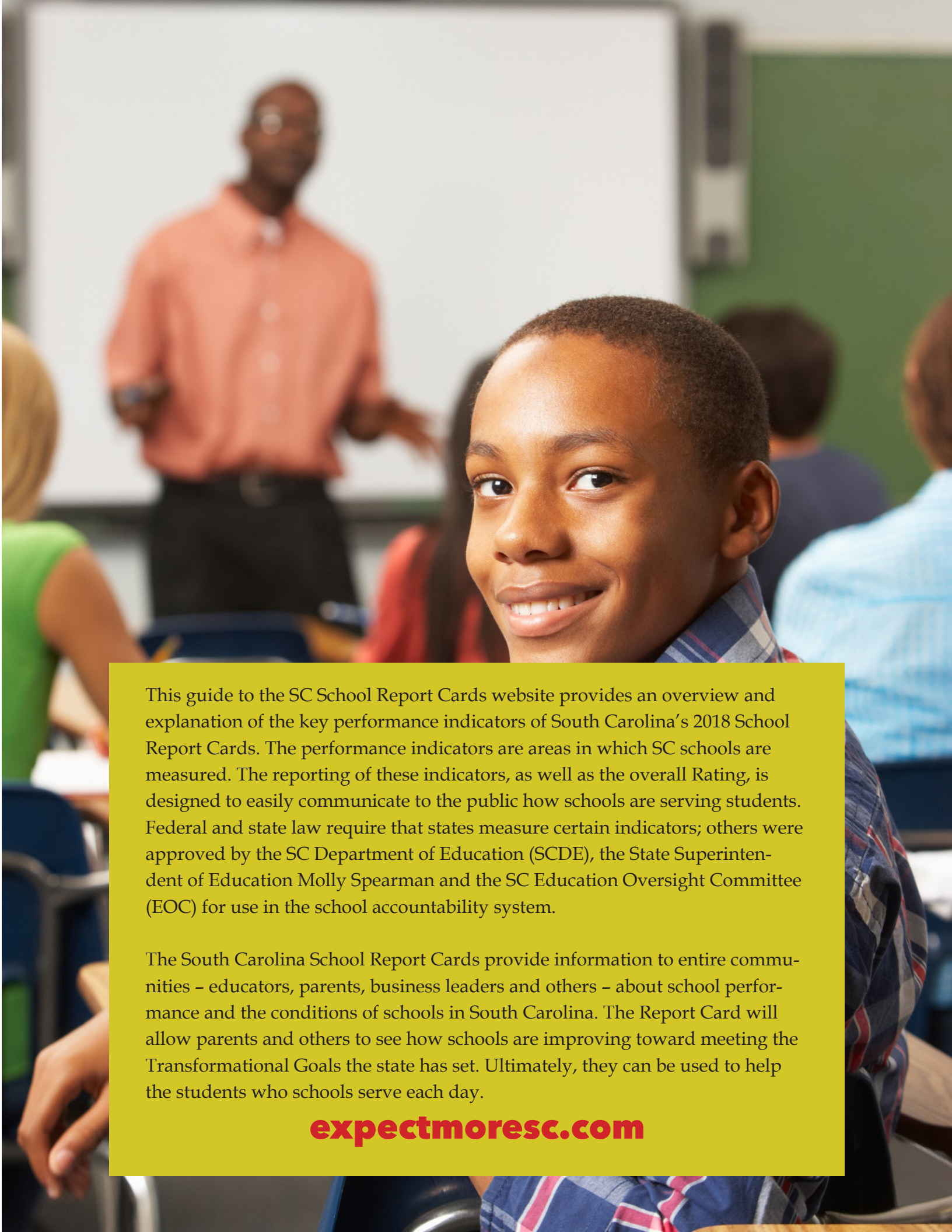

This guide to the SC School Report Cards website provides an overview and explanation of the key performance indicators of South Carolina's 2018 School Report Cards. The performance indicators are areas in which SC schools are measured. The reporting of these indicators, as well as the overall Rating, is designed to easily communicate to the public how schools are serving students. Federal and state law require that states measure certain indicators; others were approved by the SC Department of Education (SCDE), the State Superintendent of Education Molly Spearman and the SC Education Oversight Committee (EOC) for use in the school accountability system.

The South Carolina School Report Cards provide information to entire communities – educators, parents, business leaders and others – about school performance and the conditions of schools in South Carolina. The Report Card will allow parents and others to see how schools are improving toward meeting the Transformational Goals the state has set. Ultimately, they can be used to help the students who schools serve each day.

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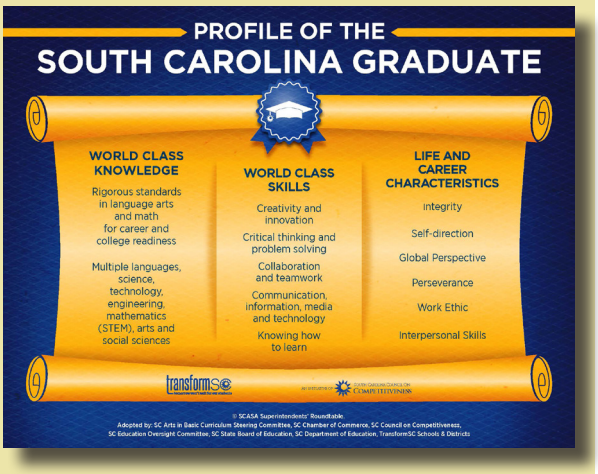
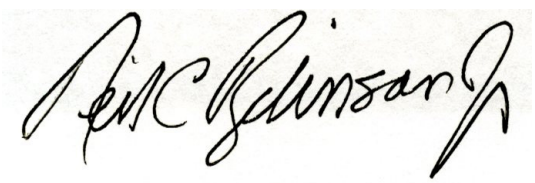


Welcome!

The release of the 2018 South Carolina School Report Cards is an important milestone for our state. The SC Education Oversight Committee, the SC Department of Education, and other key stakeholders, have spent the last three years developing an accountability system that will inform the public of the status of public schools while meeting the mandates of state and federal law. The Report Cards give South Carolinians and those who may move to this great state, a glimpse into how schools are performing in ten key areas. These key areas, known as performance indicators, provide information about schools. Some indicators are Rated; others are just reported. The indicators reflect our aspirations for our schools. We want them to show students reaching levels of proficiency, as well as show the growth students are making in one academic year. We want all students graduating on-time, within four years, and meeting the expectations of college- and career-readiness. We want all students to meet the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate, ready to start a career or enter a two- or four-year university. To meet the workforce demands of the 21st century, all students should graduate college- or career-ready.

We hope the results from the Report Cards will start productive conversations in our communities about improving and supporting schools and students. Some of the indicators provide important information about schools that aren't part of the Rating; that information is still important for the public to understand.

We encourage stakeholders to talk about the results and ask questions of your school and school district leaders. By asking meaningful questions, we can develop and implement improvement strategies that can make a difference going forward. We are ALL part of the solution in helping schools and students. Please join us.



Neil Robinson, Jr.
Chairman
SC Education Oversight Committee

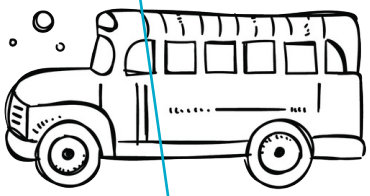
UNDERSTANDING ESSA in South Carolina

SC CLASSROOMS

Teachers teach SC College- and Career-Ready Standards

SC SCHOOLS

State assessments are required by federal and state law to be given to students in certain subjects and certain grades. These assessments measure how well SC schools are doing in helping students achieve standards. SC schools are given School Report Cards which contain Ratings.



SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

Report cards are intended to provide parents, community members, and others with the tools to understand schools. Armed with that understanding, individuals can better understand how to help the schools and the students they serve.

WHAT IS ESSA?

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) is a U.S. law passed in December 2015 that governs the United States K-12 public education policy. The law replaced its predecessor, the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB).

South Carolina, like other states, submitted an ESSA plan to the U.S. Department of Education. Certain measures, such as measuring the progress of English Learners and measuring the high school graduation rate, were required components of all ESSA plans. South Carolina's plan was approved on May 3, 2018.

Report cards issued in November 2018, which will measure the 2017-18 school year, will be the first report cards to include Ratings in three years and the first Report Cards issued under SC's new ESSA plan.

UNDERSTANDING the Ratings

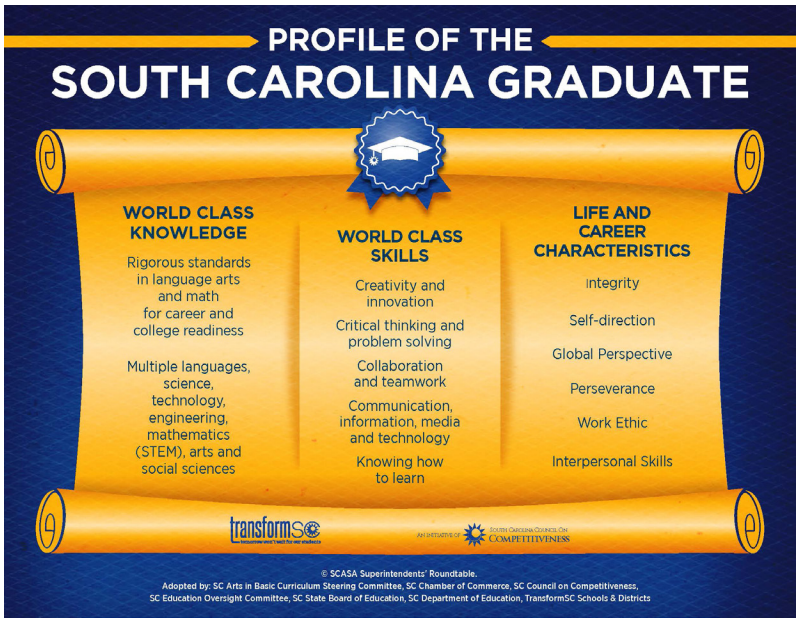
WHAT IS RATED?

Beginning with the 2018 Report Cards, each elementary, middle, and high school will receive an overall performance Rating as well as a Rating for seven of the ten reported indicators. State law outlines the names used for the Ratings and also requires that the overall Rating for schools is based on a 100-point scale. A school's overall Rating is based on a school's performance on the seven indicators which are rated.

No school district will receive a performance Rating. Primary schools serving students in grades 3 or below and career centers will not receive a Rating in 2018 although Primary Schools will receive report cards in a PDF format.

WHAT DO THE RATINGS MEAN?

In state law, performance Ratings for schools are based on performance on meeting the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate. Each of the seven measured indicators use specific criteria to determine a Rating. State law defines each Rating:



EXCELLENT:

School performance substantially exceeds the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.

GOOD:

School performance exceeds the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.

AVERAGE:

School performance meets the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.

BELOW AVERAGE:

School performance is in jeopardy of not meeting the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.

UNSATISFACTORY:

School performance fails to meet the criteria to ensure all students meet the Profile of the South Carolina Graduate.

FOR THE 2018 REPORT CARDS, HOW ARE THE OVERALL RATINGS DETERMINED FOR SCHOOLS?

The overall Rating for schools will be based on the performance of SC's students on the 2015 Nation's Report Card, which was administered to students in every state. The total number of points needed for a school to earn an overall Rating of Excellent, Good, Average, Below Average, or Unsatisfactory will be based on the following percentages: Excellent: 15%; Good: 20%; Average: 35%; Below Average: 20%; and Unsatisfactory: 10%. The EOC recommends that these target percentages stay in place for at least 5 years to allow schools to improve within a consistent system.

UNDERSTANDING the 100 point scale

HOW ELEMENTARY AND MIDDLE SCHOOLS ARE RATED

Below are the point totals for each of the rated indicators impacting Elementary and Middle Schools. The point totals are based on a school having 20 or more English Learners (ELs). The number in parentheses applies to schools who have *fewer than* 20 English Learners (ELs) and do not receive a rating for English Learners' Proficiency.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:
35 points (40 points without ELs)

STUDENT PROGRESS:
35 points (40 points without ELs)
The points in this category are split evenly, rating the progress of all students and the progress of the lowest performing 20% of students.

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS:
10 points (10 points without ELs)

ENGLISH LEARNERS' PROFICIENCY:
10 points (0 points without ELs)

SCHOOL QUALITY:
10 points (10 points without ELs)

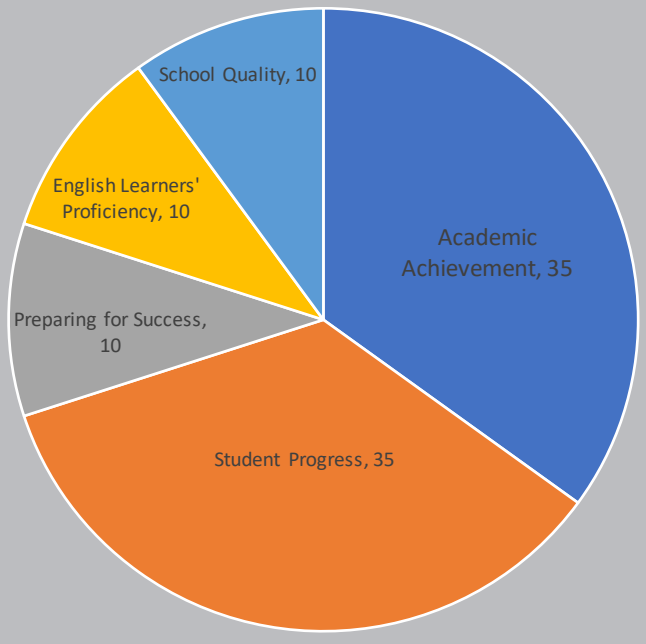


*Chart shows the breakdown of points in a school with 20 or more English Language Learners.

HOW HIGH SCHOOLS ARE RATED

Below are the point totals for each of the rated indicators impacting High Schools. The point totals are based on a school having 20 or more English Learners (ELs). The number in parentheses applies to schools who have *fewer than* 20 English Learners (ELs) and do not receive a rating for English Learners' Proficiency.

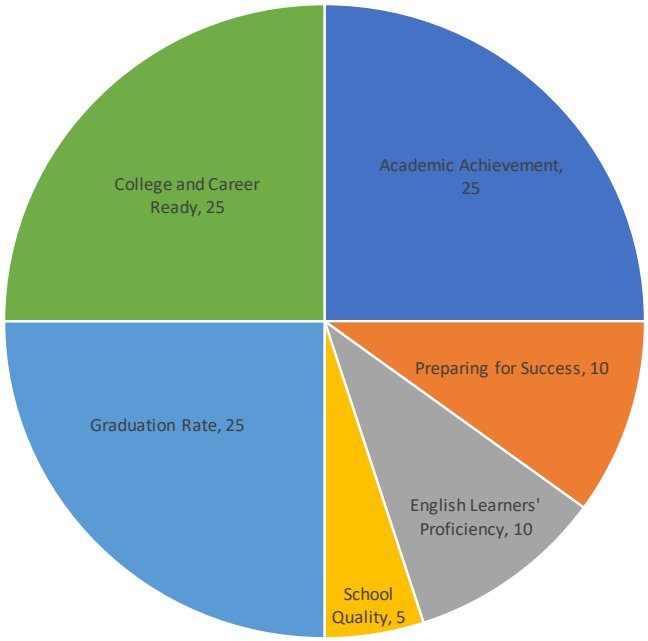


*Chart shows the breakdown of points in a school with 20 or more English Language Learners.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT:
25 points (30 points without ELs)

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS:
10 points (10 points without ELs)

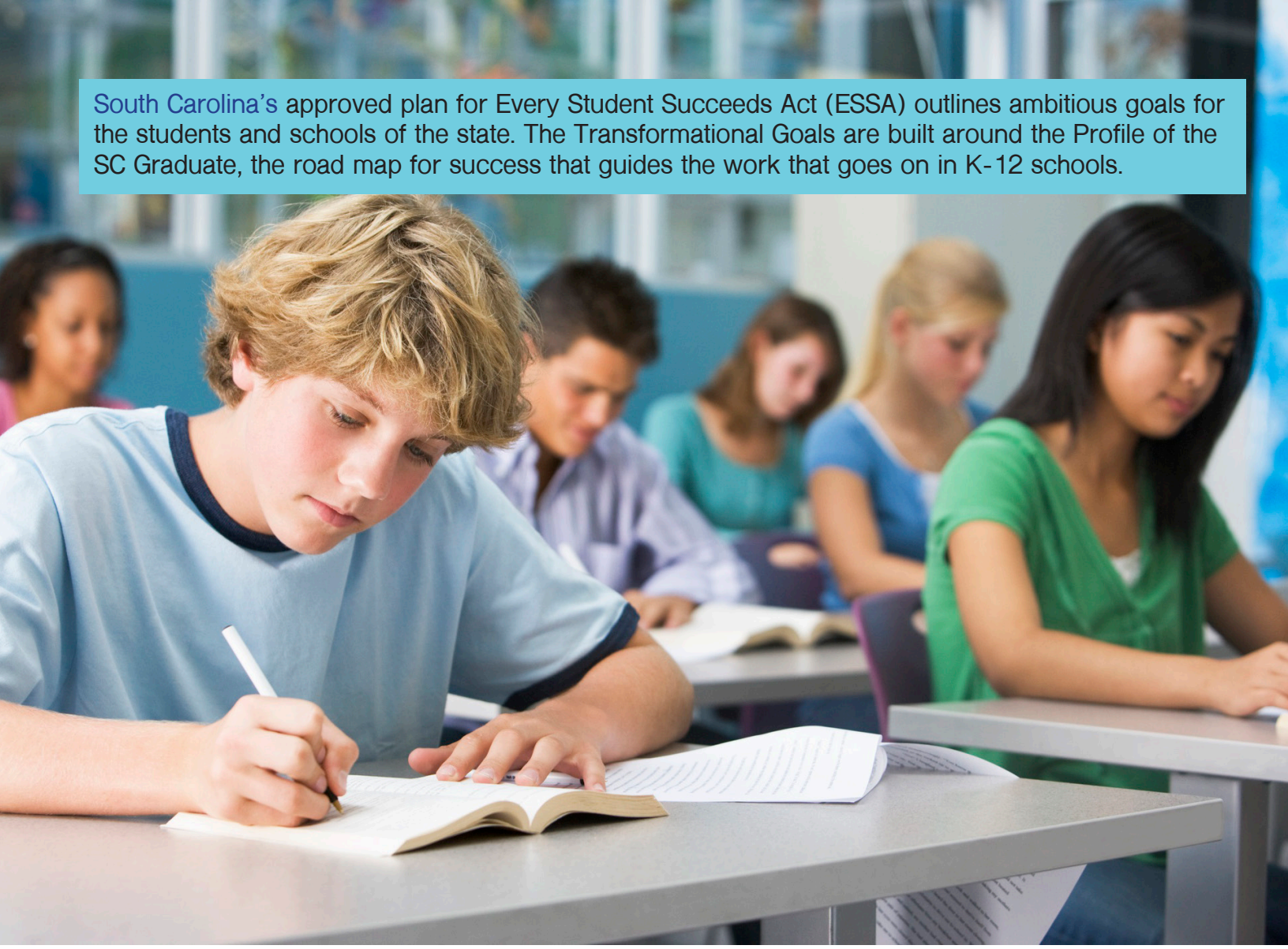
ENGLISH LEARNERS' PROFICIENCY:
10 points (0 points without ELs)

GRADUATION RATE:
25 points (30 points without ELs)

COLLEGE AND CAREER READY:
25 points (25 points without ELs)

SCHOOL QUALITY:
5 points (5 points without ELs)

South Carolina's approved plan for Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) outlines ambitious goals for the students and schools of the state. The Transformational Goals are built around the Profile of the SC Graduate, the road map for success that guides the work that goes on in K-12 schools.



SC Transformational Goals

1. By 2035, the on-time graduation rate of state, each district and each high school should be at least 90%.
2. By 2035, 90 percent of students will score at Level 2 or higher (Approaches and above on SC READY) and a D or higher on end-of-course assessments) in English language arts and mathematics.
3. By 2035, 70 percent of students will score at Level 3 or higher (Meets and above on SC READY and a C or higher on end-of-course assessments) in English language arts and mathematics.
4. Beginning with the graduating class of 2020, the state must increase annually by 5% the percentage of students who graduate ready to enter postsecondary education to pursue a degree or national industry credential without the need for remediation.

WHAT do the SC Report Cards Measure?

Schools report information for the South Carolina School Report Cards in specific areas – called indicators. The indicators are **Academic Achievement**; **Student Progress**; **Preparing for Success**; **College and Career Ready**; **English Learners' Proficiency**; **Graduation Rate**; **School Quality**; **Classroom Environment**; **Student Safety**; and **Financial Information**. Seven of the ten indicators will receive a Rating for the indicator. Three of the indicators are measured but not Rated. Each school will also receive an overall School Rating. The Ratings, as well as the information contained in each indicator, helps give parents, community members, business leaders, and others a snapshot of the quality of education schools are providing children.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

This indicator determines if students in a school are meeting state standards in English Language Arts (Reading and Writing) and Math. *Impacts all schools and is Rated.*

STUDENT PROGRESS

This indicator determines how students are growing or improving academically in English Language Arts and Math and how the lowest performing 20% of students in a school are growing academically. *Impacts Elementary and Middle Schools and is Rated.*

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS

This indicator determines if students in a school are meeting state standards in the Sciences and Social Studies AND to help understand if schools are preparing students for success in critical areas. *Impacts all schools and is Rated.*

ENGLISH LEARNERS' PROFICIENCY

This indicator determines if students who are non-native-English speakers are meeting growth targets to learn the English Language. *Impacts all schools and is Rated.*

COLLEGE AND CAREER READY

The College and Career Ready indicator determines if students who are graduating from a high school are prepared for college or careers after graduating. *Impacts High schools and is Rated.*

GRADUATION RATE

The Graduation Rate indicator determines what percentage of students who entered the high school in the 9th grade, graduated in at least 4 years. *Impacts High schools and is Rated.*

SCHOOL QUALITY

This indicator determines if students feel engaged in their school and reports data to better understand the school climate. *Impacts all schools and is Rated.*

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

This indicator shows all the data that is collected about teachers in a school and how it relates to students. *Impacts all schools and is not Rated.*

STUDENT SAFETY

The Student Safety indicator shows information about unsafe incidents that have occurred on school grounds, on some transportation, or at school-sponsored events. *Impacts all schools and is not Rated.*

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This indicator shows all of the financial information that is collected about schools and school districts -- from average salaries to the percent of money spent on classroom instruction. *Impacts all schools and is not Rated.*

HOW do I use this information?

Look at the Ratings for each of the indicators as well as the information that is not part of the Rating. Ask questions about the information you see.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

This indicator determines if students in a school are meeting state standards in English Language Arts (Reading and Writing) and Math. *Impacts all schools and is rated.*

What does this indicator mean?

Overall, this indicator shows how students in a school are doing in Reading, Writing, and Math compared to state standards. These standards tell us if students are on-track to be college- and career-ready, which implies grade level success.

What makes up the Rating for the indicator

- Test scores on SC READY tests given to students in grades 3-8 at the end of a school year in English Language Arts and Math
- End-of-course grades in Algebra I and English I

What is measured in this indicator but not included in the Rating?

Information about the percentage of instructional time when both students and teachers are present in the school.

Why is the indicator important?

State end-of-year tests are designed to measure if students are on grade level. Ratings for this indicator are based on how many students in a school are achieving grade level success in Reading, Writing, and Math.

What are some questions to ask?

- What percentage of students in this school are at least meeting grade level standards in Reading, Writing, and Math?
- In which subjects and grades are students meeting grade level expectations? Why?
- In which subjects and grades are students not doing well? Why?

STUDENT PROGRESS

This indicator determines how students are growing or improving academically in English Language Arts and Math and how the lowest performing 20% of students in a school are growing academically. *Impacts Elementary and Middle Schools and is rated.*

What does this indicator mean?

This indicator measures how students in each school are making progress in Reading, Writing, and Math as compared to their peers statewide. It measures progress over time from one grade or course to the next.

What makes up the Rating for the indicator?

The results of a value-added system that measures the academic gains of students on English Language Arts and Math, comparing them to their peers.

What is measured in this indicator but not included in the Rating?

N/A

Why is the indicator important?

The economic status of students in a school does not hold students back from growing as learners. Schools serving high poverty populations have and can make incredible academic progress. It also emphasizes the learning needs of students who are struggling.

What are some questions to ask?

- Look at a school's Student Progress Rating in relation to its Academic Achievement Rating. Is there a difference? If the Student Progress Rating is high but the Academic Achievement Rating is low, the school is doing a good job growing students but students are not, on average, meeting state standards.
- Which students are making progress and which are not?

PREPARING FOR SUCCESS

This indicator determines if students in a school are meeting state standards in Science and Social Studies AND how schools are preparing students for success in critical areas. *Impacts all schools and is rated.*

What does this indicator mean?

Overall, how students in a school are doing in Science and Social Studies compared to state standards.

What makes up the Rating for the indicator?

- Test scores on SC PASS tests given to students in grades 3-8 at the end of a school year in Science and Social Studies
- End-of-course grades in Biology and U.S. History and the Constitution

What is measured in this indicator but not included in the Rating?

For Elem Schools:

- The number and percentage of students entering Kindergarten ready to learn
- The percentage of 2nd graders on track for 3rd grade success in Reading and Math

For High Schools:

- The percentage of students passing a Civics Test

Why is the indicator important?

State end-of-year tests are designed to measure if students are on grade level. Ratings for this indicator are based on how many students in a school are achieving grade level success in Science and Social Studies.

Although not factored into the rating for this indicator, Kindergarten Readiness will be reported on Elementary School Report Cards within this indicator. This information will show the percentage of kindergarten students who are "ready to learn" upon entering Kindergarten.

What are some questions to ask?

- Are students entering Kindergarten in the school ready for learning?
- What percentage of students are meeting grade level standards in Science and Social Studies?

ENGLISH LEARNERS' PROFICIENCY

This indicator determines if students who are non-native-English speakers are meeting growth targets to learn the English Language. *Impacts all schools and is rated.*

What does this indicator mean?

How non-English speaking students are progressing in learning English.

What makes up the Rating for the indicator?

Scores from the ACCESS assessment, which has scores in the areas of listening, speaking, reading, and writing. If there are fewer than 20 English language learners in a school, then schools are NOT rated on this indicator.

What is measured in this indicator but not included in the Rating?

N/A

Why is the indicator important?

It is a federal requirement to measure the progress of English Learners (ELs).

What are some questions to ask?

- Does the school provide extra programs and supports for English Language Learners?

COLLEGE AND CAREER READY

The College and Career Ready indicator determines if students who are graduating from a high school are prepared for college or careers after graduating. *Impacts High schools and is rated.*

What does this indicator mean?

If students graduating from a high school are prepared for college or a career

What makes up the Rating for the indicator?

To be college-ready, a student must meet one of the following:

1. Scores a composite score of 20 or higher on the ACT;
2. Scores a composite score of 1020 or higher on the SAT;
3. Scores a 3 or higher on an Advanced Placement (AP) exam;
4. Scores a 4 or higher on an International Baccalaureate (IB) assessment Only higher learning (HL) exams may count; or
5. Completes at least six (6) credit hours in dual enrollment courses with a grade of C or higher.

To be career-ready, a student must meet one of the following:

1. Is a Career and Technical Education (CTE) completer and earns a national or state industry credential as determined by the business community; or
2. Earns a Silver, Gold or Platinum National Career Readiness Certificate on the state-approved career readiness assessment; or
3. Earns a scale score of 31 or higher on the ASVAB; or
4. Successfully completes a state-approved work-based learning program.

The rating for this indicator looks at either the college OR career readiness of graduates. This measure does not account for students who drop out and do not graduate.

What is measured in this indicator but not included in the Rating?

1. The participation and passage rates for Advanced Placement (AP), International Baccalaureate (IB) programs, and dual enrollment courses;
2. college enrollment information;
3. LIFE and Palmetto Fellow Scholarship information
4. School, school district, and state average ACT and SAT scores.

Why is the indicator important?

A high school diploma is important, but not sufficient today. It's about being prepared for what's next on a student's journey. College? Military Service? A Career?

What are some questions to ask?

- Want to see what schools are preparing students for what kinds of opportunities post-graduation? Look at the percentages by each of the choices. On what college and career measures are most students in the school meeting?
- Are the number and percentage of dropouts significant?

GRADUATION RATE

The Graduation Rate indicator determines what percentage of students who entered high school in the 9th grade, graduated in at least 4 years. *Impacts High schools and is rated.*

What does this indicator mean?

This indicator shows how well a school does in graduating students in 4 years.

What makes up the Rating for the indicator?

Percentage of students who entered the high school in the 9th grade that graduated in at least 4 years

What is measured in this indicator but not included in the Rating?

- Dropout Rates
- Dropout Recovery Rates (where students re-enroll in a high school or Adult Education Program after dropping out)

Why is the indicator important?

High school graduation rates are no longer an indicator for success alone. Graduation is just the beginning for students, so the focus has turned to college- and career-readiness.

What are some questions to ask?

- Compare the graduation rate at the school with the information in the College and Career Ready Indicator. Does the school have a high percentage of both?

SCHOOL QUALITY

This indicator determines if students feel engaged in their school and what other measures of school quality are in the school. *Impacts all schools and is rated.*

What does this indicator mean?

This measures the quality of the student experience as measured by students' engagement.

What makes up the Rating for the indicator?

Student engagement levels are determined by an AdvancED survey given to students in grades 3-12.

What is measured in this indicator but not included in the Rating?

For Elementary and Middle Schools:

- student retention rates
- wireless access rates
- rate of chronic absenteeism
- capability of providing all students with an electronic device
- percentage of students served in a gifted and talented program

For High Schools:

- available career and technology education courses
- rate of chronic absenteeism in a school
- retention rates
- wireless access rates
- capability of providing all students with an electronic device

Why is the indicator important?

Engaged students are the foundation for student success AND school success. It's about both resources and relationships schools have for/with their students.

What are some questions to ask

With the AdvancED survey, this is the first time in history that the student voice has been incorporated into the rating of a SC School Report Card. Is student satisfaction high or low? Why?

CLASSROOM ENVIRONMENT

This indicator shows the data collected about teachers in a school and how it relates to students. *Impacts all schools and is not rated.*

What does this indicator mean?

This information is to help parents and others understand about the teaching force in a school -- if teachers are returning from the previous year, their experience, and effectiveness. Teachers are critical to the academic success of students.

What makes up the Rating for the indicator?

Not rated

What is measured in this indicator but not included in the Rating?

- student-teacher ratios
- number of teachers in school
- teacher attendance rate
- percentage of teachers returning from the previous year
- teacher vacancies
- average teacher salary
- percentage of teachers with advanced degrees

Why is the indicator important?

The biggest factor leading to student success is the quality of a teacher in the classroom.

What are some questions to ask?

- Did you know? Research shows a direct correlation between the number of certified teachers in a school classroom and student achievement. Look at the information provided about the teachers in the school. Are teachers returning from the previous year?
- Are there a large number of teaching vacancies?

STUDENT SAFETY

The Student Safety indicator shows information about unsafe incidents that have occurred on school grounds, on school transportation, or at school-sponsored events. *Impacts all schools and is not rated.*

What does this indicator mean?

This indicator shows parents and others how many unsafe incidents have occurred at a school or at school functions.

What makes up the Rating for the indicator?

Not rated

What is measured in this indicator but not included in the Rating?

Percentage of the student population in a school involved in incidents occurring on school grounds, on school transportation, or at school-sponsored events.

The incidents are broken down by type (i.e., robbery, drug violations, weapon possession, vandalism, etc.)

Why is the indicator important?

School should be a learning environment, safe from violence and harassment.

What are some questions to ask?

- Did you know? A school's climate, which includes school safety, impacts student achievement. A positive school climate has a positive influence on student achievement. Look at the data related to safety and ask questions of school administrators.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

This indicator shows all of the financial information that is collected about schools and school districts -- from average salaries to the percent of money spent on classroom instruction. *Impacts all schools and is not rated.*

What does this indicator mean?

This indicator breaks down how schools spend money.

What makes up the Rating for the indicator?

Not rated

What is measured in this indicator but not included in the Rating?

Measures per pupil expenditures, percentage of expenditures for instruction, percentage of total expenditures for teacher salaries. This indicator also shows the poverty index of schools, which is the percentage of the school's students who are transient, in foster care, homeless, or have been Medicaid-eligible or qualified for Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) or Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) services with the last three years.

Why is the indicator important?

Resources are important. Research also shows that how schools spend resources is even more important to the success of students.

What are some questions to ask?

This indicator highlights how schools actually spend their money on. What percentage of expenditures are devoted to the instruction of students?