

Education Facts Charleston Metropolitan Area, SC

There are four school districts serving approximately 93,150 students in the Charleston Region. Berkeley, Charleston, Dorchester II and Dorchester IV collectively operate 137 schools serving grades K-12 in the Charleston metropolitan area. There are also approximately 65 private and parochial schools in the region with an enrollment of over 13,470 students.

	Berkeley County	Charleston County	Dorchester County II	Dorchester County IV
Student Population	28,056	42,488	20,273	2,328
Number of Public Schools	36	80	16	5
Per Pupil Expenditures	\$7,441	\$9,038	\$6,958	\$10,232
Education Level of Teachers:				
Total number of teachers	1,763	3,309	1,291	176
% of teachers with advanced degrees	56.7%	54.1%	52.7%	68.8%
Pupil/Teacher Ratio	22.0 to 1	19.0 to 1	21.3 to 1	19.5 to 1
Average Teacher Salary	\$44,380	\$42,483	\$43,143	\$45,168
Average SAT Scores (2007):				
Total District (State of S.C.=984; U.S.=1017)	984	982	1015	913
Math	498	493	518	484
Critical Reading	486	489	497	429
Annual # of High School Graduates	1,479	1,748	987	107
Graduation Rate	68.5%	61.3%	64.3%	59.1%
After Graduating, % Entering...				
2 & 4 Year Colleges/Other Post-secondary Educ.	69.3	70.3	66	85.5
Workforce/Military/Other	30.7	29.7	34	14.5
Annual Drop-out Rate	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%	2.2%
2007 District Report Card Rating *				
Absolute Rating	Average	Below Average	Average	Unsatisfactory
Improvement Rating	Below Average	Average	Unsatisfactory	Unsatisfactory

* The South Carolina Annual Report Card was implemented as a result of the Education Accountability Act enacted by the South Carolina General Assembly in 1998. The Report Cards assign ratings to each school and district in South Carolina – Excellent, Good, Average, Below Average or Unsatisfactory. Each district is assigned two separate ratings: an Absolute Rating based on student test scores and an Improvement Rating that compares student test scores from one year to the next.

Definition of Rating Terms:

Excellent – District performance substantially exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Good – District performance exceeds the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Average – District performance meets the standards for progress toward the 2010 Performance Goal.

Below Average – District is in jeopardy of not meeting the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Unsatisfactory – District performance fails to meet the standards for progress toward the 2010 SC Performance Goal.

Source: South Carolina Dept of Education, <http://ed.sc.gov>; Local district websites: www.berkeley.k12.sc.us, www.ccsdschools.com, www.dorchester2.k12.sc.us, www.dorchester4.k12.sc.us

Compiled by: Center for Business Research, Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, 2/7/2008