



Southside High School

An International Baccalaureate High School

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"Creating a Common School Culture of Excellence" Fax 864-355-8798

November 10, 2011

Dear Parent,

Our School Report Card was recently released by the State Department of Education. For 2010-11, Southside High School achieved an Absolute Rating of Average and a Growth Rating of Below Average. School and District Report Cards are no longer printed due to State budget cuts. The Report Cards are posted on our school district website at www.greenville.k12.sc.us.

- The Absolute Rating is based on the first-attempt, high school exit exam (High School Assessment Program or HSAP) pass rate, longitudinal HSAP pass rate, End-of-Course tests pass rate, on-time graduation rate, and 5-year graduation rate. These results are measured against target levels of performance. The Growth Rating indicates the progress of achievement scores and graduation rates for different groups of students from one year to the next.
- Report Cards also include our status toward meeting the Federal requirements of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act. Adequate Yearly Progress reports the percentage of each student group scoring at the two highest levels - Met and Exemplary – on the High School Assessment Program (HSAP) Test and the previous year's on-time graduation rate. Our AYP status for 2010-11 was Not Met.

The South Carolina School Report Card and AYP results can be confusing because a school or school district can score well on the Report Card and not achieve AYP. Why? Absolute ratings for School Report Cards are based on five achievement indicators: End-of-Course test results, on-time graduation rate, 5-year graduation rate, results for students taking the High School Assessment Program (HSAP) test for the first time, and HSAP passage results for the graduating class. For Report Cards, HSAP achievement is reported for all passing levels - Basic or Level 2 through Advanced or Level 4. Results to determine AYP are based on two achievement indicators: student results on the HSAP (first attempt) at the two highest levels - Proficient and Advanced – and on-time graduation rate from the previous year.

AYP targets for percentages of students scoring Proficient (Level 3 or 4) in each content area are established by the state and increase every three years through the year 2014 when 100 percent of students are expected to score Level 3 or above. If just one student group in a school or school district fails to meet one objective in a given year, the school or district fails to meet AYP. Also, high schools must annually meet the goal of an 88.3% student graduation rate, meet the target objective of a 78.0% graduation rate, exceed last year's graduation rate by at least 2 percentage points, or exceed its three-year average graduation rate by at least 2 percentage points.

I encourage you to study the School and District Report Cards and to use their release as an opportunity to be more involved with your child's education and our school. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call me. I look forward to working with you to ensure that our school continues to improve.

Sincerely,
Carlos Brooks

Principal