

Skyland Elementary School Annual Summary Report to the Community

In compliance with the Education Improvement Act of 1984, the Annual Report to the Community is written and reported each year to keep parents and community members informed regarding the progress the school is making in meeting school and district goals and objectives. This report was developed by our School Improvement Council (SIC), which consists of administrators, teachers, parents, and community business representatives. The SIC works closely with the principal in examining the school's annual standardized testing data and setting goals that focus on specific areas of strength and weakness. Teacher, parent, and student survey data is also examined by the SIC to determine internal and external perceptions regarding the overall school operations. Utilizing this information, a plan for improvement is established each year.

As a result of our improvement plan, Skyland students continue to make steady academic gains on state-wide student achievement tests, earning us the coveted State Department of Education Palmetto Gold Award. We contribute much of our success to several long-term initiatives including a focus on student data, teacher collaboration, teacher professional development that fosters academic success for all students, and early intervention measures at the primary level. However, we acknowledge that these initiatives would be meaningless without an outstanding team of dedicated teaching professionals who are committed to the implementation of these initiatives. Skyland takes pride in building and maintaining a highly-qualified and skilled teaching staff who works tirelessly to support student academic achievement.

Along with continued student success, it should also be noted that Skyland's academic performance exceeded the state's expectations based on the ESEA Federal Accountability Rating System. (The Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) as reauthorized by the No Child Left Behind Act requires states to hold schools accountable for their performance. Historically, this has been done through the use of the Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) measurement.) In addition to this tremendous accomplishment, our PTA and Business in Education Partners continue to provide strong financial, educational, and moral support to our school. To date, Skyland benefits from over 40 business education partnerships and over 16,000 PTA volunteer hours. We appreciate the PTA and all of the community businesses that contribute so generously to our school. There is no doubt that their active participation is also a contributing factor to our school's success.

In closing, we would like to express our gratitude to you for being an integral part of our team at Skyland Elementary. Building a school of excellence requires teamwork. Please join us in acknowledging Skyland's dedicated teachers, staff, business partners, and volunteers who give selflessly to ensure that every child succeeds. Skyland Elementary continues to provide quality education in "a place where children flourish."

Dr. Carolyn Styles, Principal
Kenna Brannon, SIC Chair