



## South Carolina Public Charter School District

August 31, 2011

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Dear Charter School Parents,

Welcome to the start of the 2011-2012 academic year. We are delighted that you have chosen for your child to attend a public charter school in this state-wide district.

The charter school district continues to grow in both the number of students and the number of schools, but what has not changed is our commitment to providing tailor-made education solutions for every child that we have the honor to teach.

As you may know, our schools are required by law to conduct the same rigorous student testing as all of the other public schools in the state, and we embrace this challenge with enthusiasm and with the highest standards of professional behavior. I hope that you will take a moment to review the attached sheet, which outlines the student testing that we conduct as public schools in South Carolina. Our schools also must meet all of the state requirements regarding teacher certifications, and you have the right to request and receive information from your child's school regarding the professional qualifications of those who work with your child. In addition, the policies and procedures in our district ensure that all children with disabilities who are in need of special education and related services are identified, located, and evaluated, regardless of the severity of the disability in question. You have the right to speak with the designated special education coordinator at your child's school to request additional information regarding these free services. Our district office staff is also available to help ensure the best outcomes for student success.

As we start this new school year, I hope that you will take a moment to access our district web site, which is [www.sccharter.org](http://www.sccharter.org). There you can find a wealth of interesting and useful information that I hope will be helpful for you as the year progresses.

We share something important in common: we both want the very best from our public schools. I look forward to our continued collaboration toward educating and mentoring your child with the highest expectations for success.

Regards,

Wayne Brazell, Ph. D.  
Superintendent

3710 Landmark Drive, Ste 201  
Columbia, SC 29204  
Phone: 803-734-8322  
Fax: 803-734-8325  
[www.sccharter.org](http://www.sccharter.org)

The South Carolina Public Charter School District does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, disability, age, religion, immigrant status, or national origin in its educational programs and employment practices. For questions pertaining to Section 504 contact the Director of Special Education Services and for questions pertaining to Title IX contact the Director of Federal Programs at 3710 Landmark Drive, Suite 201, Columbia, SC 29204, 803-734-8322.

## Frequently Asked Questions Regarding State Testing

Provided to parents in the SC Public Charter School District

*What tests does the state REQUIRE ALL PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN to take?*

Kindergarten and First Grade: None

Second Grade: CogAT and ITBS

SC requires that all second grade students be screened for possible gifted and talented identification using the Cognitive Abilities Test (CogAT) and the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS).

Grades Three – Eight: PASS

The Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS) is aligned with the state curriculum standards for English Language Arts (ELA), mathematics, science, and social studies. A two-day writing test is administered in March. ELA, math, science and social studies are administered in May.

\*Middle school students taking courses for high school credit must also take the EOC (see below).

High School: EOC

Students enrolled in Algebra 1/Mathematics for the Technologies 2, English 1, U.S. History, or Biology 1/Applied Biology 2 will participate in the End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP or just EOC). Results of the test will count as 20% of the final course grade.

Second Year of High School: HSAP

The High School Assessment Program (HSAP) is the testing requirement for a SC high school diploma. Students must earn a passing score on both the ELA and Mathematics portions of the exam. Students first take HSAP during the spring of their second year of high school (typically tenth graders and those repeating the ninth grade). If necessary, students will then have two chances per year and one final chance the summer after twelfth grade to earn passing scores.

Students with Limited English Proficiency: ELDA

The English Language Development Assessment (ELDA) is used to differentiate instruction and ESOL services based on students' needs.

*Are there any exceptions?*

Yes. For students who demonstrate a significant cognitive disability and meet certain other criteria, the IEP team may determine that the South Carolina Alternative Assessment (SC-Alt) should be administered instead of PASS or HSAP.

*What is AYP?*

Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) is a measurement defined by the federal No Child Left Behind Act. It contains three components:

1. Testing participation
2. Testing performance in ELA and Math
3. Attendance (Elementary/Middle) or Graduation rate (if the school has 12<sup>th</sup> grade)

The first two components each contain several objectives. A school must meet ALL objectives to “meet AYP”. If a school does not meet AYP for two years, it must offer school choice to parents. Failure to meet AYP for three or more years will result in sanctions that may include supplemental services, corrective action, and restructuring.

*How is my school doing?*

Parents can view AYP results and school report cards for their child's current school or a new school they are considering on the state's website ([ed.sc.gov](http://ed.sc.gov)). Click “Quick Data” and then “Report Card Portal”. Information is available for all public schools in SC for the last several years.

*How is my child doing?*

Parents will receive a copy of their child's test results, which will be mailed by the school in late summer or early fall.