Rating for Schools Enrolling Students in Grades Three Through Eight

Absolute Rating
The absolute performance level is calculated on the basis of a weighted model in which student performance weights are assigned. A weighted model is one in which the percentage of student scores in each PASS performance level category is weighted to represent the importance of scoring in that category, as follows: Exemplary 5, five points; Exemplary 4, four points; Met, three points; Not Met 2, two points; and Not Met 1, one point. The following tables provide the score ranges and cut points for each score category for each grade and subject area. Scale score ranges and cut points for the five performance levels were determined by the SCDE based on the performance standards set by the EOC in October 2009. Students who should have participated in the state testing program but did not and were not excused from testing will receive a point weight of zero for each subject area test in which the student was supposed to have been tested but was not.

Growth Rating
Growth ratings in elementary and middle schools are based on longitudinal student data, with test results from the current year matched to results from the previous year to measure growth. Elementary and middle school Growth ratings for the 2008-2009 school year and beyond are based on a methodology adopted by the EOC in January 2010. Growth ratings, beginning in 2009-2010 school year, are based on PASS- to PASS results.

Growth Value Table Based on PASS-to-PASS Comparisons
(Growth from Not Met to Met Valued Higher Than Growth Above Met)

Year One (Pretest)	Year Two (Posttest)				
	Not Met 1 (PASS)	Not Met 2 (PASS)	Met (PASS)	Exemplary 4 (PASS)	Exemplary 5 (PASS)
Exemplary 5 (PASS)	40	60	80	90	100
Exemplary 4 (PASS)	50	70	90	100	110
Met (PASS)	60	80	100	110	120
Not Met 2 (PASS)	70	90	110	120	130
Not Met 1 (PASS)	80	100	120	130	140

Students who qualify for inclusion in the Growth rating must have both current- and prior-year PASS scores available. Students who do not have both scores will not be factored into the Growth rating.

Ratings for High Schools

In 2009-2010 school year, the Absolute and Growth Ratings for high schools are calculated on a weighted model using the following criteria: performance on HSAP of students at the school taking the test for the first time, longitudinal High School Assessment Program (HSAP) performance, the percentage of end-of-course tests administered at the school having scores of 70 or above, and on-time graduation rate.

Beginning with the 2010-2011 school year and beyond, the Absolute and Growth Ratings for high schools will be calculated on a weighted model using the following criteria: performance on HSAP of students at the school taking the test for the first time, longitudinal High School Assessment Program (HSAP) performance, the percentage of end-of-course tests administered at the school having scores of 70 or above, on-time graduation rate, and 5-year graduation rate. In August 2010 the EOC adopted recommendations from the High School Working Group that 5-year graduation rates be made a part of the high school ratings, that the point weights from the criteria making up the ratings be centered on 2009 performance, and that the high school Absolute indices should be compared to the ranges of indices used for elementary and middle schools when assigning Absolute ratings. The full report of the High School Working Group can be found online at www.eoc.sc.gov.

Ratings Criteria for 2009-2010 school year

- Longitudinal High School Assessment Program (HSAP) performance: This factor gauges the percentage of students who pass the HSAP by the spring or subsequent summer graduation two years after taking the examination for the first time. Students transferring to other schools should be deleted from the calculation; however students dropping out are included. Longitudinal HSAP performance is the percentage of students who score a "2" level or higher on both ELA and Math within two years after taking it for the first time.
- First-attempt HSAP performance: The percentage of students taking the High School Assessment Program (HSAP) for the first time who passed both the English language arts and mathematics subtests by scoring at the performance level of "2" or higher.
- Percentage passing End-of-Course tests: The percent of passing scores (70 or higher) on all of the End-of-Course tests administered in the high school during the school year and subsequent summer session. The end-of-course assessments currently include Algebra I, English I, U.S. History and the Constitution, and Physical Science.
- On-time Graduation rate: The percentage of all students (including students with disabilities) enrolled for the first time in grade nine four years prior to the year of the report card who earn a standard high school diploma (not GED), adjusted for transfers in and out of the school. Adjustments for students transferring out of the school or district cannot be made for those students for whom there is not evidence of enrollment in another state diploma granting program (for example, requests for transcripts from another state diploma granting program. Data from students who meet the state diploma requirements as a result of attending summer school and/or successfully passing HSAP in the summer following their senior year will be included in the calculation of the on-time graduation rate.

Calculation of Absolute Rating

Ratings are calculated using a mathematical formula that results in an index. The following point distribution is applied to each of the criteria for the calculation of the absolute index (the percentage weighting for each criterion is applied to the calculation of the index):

Criteria for High School Ratings for 2009-2010 School Year

Criterion	Points Assigned				
	5	**4**	**3**	**2**	**1**
Longitudinal Exit Exam Passage Rate (30%)	100%	99.5%–99.9%	84.1%–99.4%	75.9%–84.0%	75.8% or less
First-attempt HSAP Passage Rate (20%)	93.0% or more	83.0%–92.9%	63.1%–82.9%	53.2%–63.0%	53.1% or less
% Scoring 70 or Above on End-of-Course Tests (20%)	75.5% or more	64.3%–75.4%	42.0%–64.2%	30.8%–41.9%	30.7% or less
On-time Graduation Rate (30%)	96.1% or more	84.0%–96.0%	59.6%–83.9%	47.4%–59.5%	47.3% or less

The index is calculated using the following formula:

(1) Match the school's data/performance to the points assigned to each rating criterion in the table above.
(2) Add the weighted points for each criterion. Weighted points are calculated by multiplying the assigned points by the weighting factor assigned to each criterion.

The resulting index determines the school's Absolute Rating as follows:

Index Values for Determining Absolute Ratings

Year	Range of Indices Corresponding to Absolute Rating				
	Excellent	**Good**	**Average**	**Below Average**	**School at Risk**
2010 and beyond	3.40 and above	3.18–3.39	2.65-3.17	2.32-2.64	2.31 or below

Sample Calculation of an Absolute Rating for a High School (2009-2010 Only)

92% Longitudinal Exit Exam: (3 X 0.3) = 0.9 points

64% First-attempt HSAP passage rate:	(3 X 0.2) = 0.6 points
71% Passing end-of-course tests:	(4 X 0.2) = 0.8 points
70% On-time Graduation Rate:	(3 X 0.3) = <u>0.9 points</u>
	Sum = 3.2 Index

 Absolute Rating: Good

Students who should be tested but are not tested will be assigned a weight of zero in the accountability ratings.

Growth Rating

Note: Longitudinal student-matched data are unavailable at the high school level because of the structure of the curriculum and assessments. Therefore, the methodology examines improvement of cohorts of students over time.

The Growth Ratings are calculated using a mathematical formula that results in an index. The index is calculated by subtracting the school's Absolute Rating index from the prior year from the school's current year's Absolute Rating index.   The difference determines the rating as follows:

High School Growth Rating Criteria

Rating	Growth Index
Excellent	0.4 or greater
Good	0.3
Average	0.1–0.2
Below Average	0.0
School at Risk	-0.1 or less

Sample Calculation of a Growth Rating for a High School

Absolute Rating index for school year for which report card is based:	2.44
Absolute Rating index for the prior school year:	<u>-2.22</u>
	Difference: 0.22
	Rounds to: 0.2
	Growth Rating: Average

Note regarding the transitions of high school ratings criteria in 2009-2010 and 2010-2011:
The high school Growth rating for the 2009-2010 school year will be based on the difference between the school's 2009 performance and 2010 performance. To compute the difference the school data for 2009-2010 must be recalculated based on the ratings criteria in effect for the 2008-2009 school year. The school's performance in 2009-2010 for longitudinal HSAP performance, 1st attempt HSAP performance, end-of-course test performance, and on-time graduation rate must be compared to the values listed in the table Criteria for High School Ratings on page 20 of the *2008-2009 Accountability Manual* to obtain the point weights for calculating the absolute index for 2010 based on

2009 criteria. The absolute index for 2009 is then subtracted from the 2010 absolute index based on 2009 criteria to obtain the Growth index for assigning a Growth rating for 2010.

Beginning with the 2011-2012 school year, the ratings criteria will be consistent from year to year and recalculation of the indices for the Growth rating will not be necessary.

A school's Growth Rating may be increased by one level if the growth in performance of historically underachieving students meets or exceeds a criterion. Historically underachieving groups consist of African-American, Hispanic, and Native American students, Limited English Proficient (LEP) students, migrant students, those eligible for the free or reduced-price federal lunch program, and students with disabilities (excluding students receiving speech services only). The school's eligibility for the increased Growth Rating is determined as follows:

(1) Calculate the growth index for the group of eligible students. The group must consist of 40 or more students to be considered for analysis.
(2) Compare the growth index for the group to the state two-year average growth index for all students in the state. The state two-year average growth index is the average of the growth indices for all students for the current and prior years. If the growth index for the historically underachieving group in the school exceeds the state two-year average growth index by at least one standard deviation, the school's Growth Improvement rating may be increased by one level. If the school is rated Excellent for growth on the basis of all students, the performance for groups should also be calculated and reported even though the school's rating cannot be increased.

Schools with Absolute Ratings of Excellent in Two Subsequent Years

If a school is rated Excellent for absolute achievement for both the current and the previous years, the school will receive a Growth Rating of Good. If the school's growth index for all students is a positive number (i.e., greater than zero), the school's Growth Rating will be elevated to Excellent. The performance growth of the groups will also be reported for these schools. Schools achieving an absolute index of 4.75 or higher for two consecutive years will be awarded an Excellent Growth Rating.