

Ratings for School Districts

School district report card ratings are based on student performance on the state assessments in grades 3 through 8 and on high school state assessment performance as well as on-time graduation rate and five-year graduation rate.

Absolute Ratings (2008-2009 and 2009-2010)

The district Absolute Rating index is calculated based on the following components:

- (1) Student data used for the ratings calculations are listed in the table below. (Note: the Education Accountability Act was amended in 2006 (Section 59-18-920) to direct that data from students attending a charter school authorized by a local school district are not to be included in the calculation of the local school district ratings. Ratings for charter schools authorized by a local school district are to be reported separately on the school district report card.)

Students Whose Data Are Used to Calculate District Absolute Ratings

Rating Measure	Students
Palmetto Assessments of State Standards (PASS), End-of-Course Assessments administered in middle schools, & SC-Alt, Grades 3-8	Enrolled in district by 45 th day and on first day of testing of year for which Absolute Rating is calculated.
HSAP First Attempt and SC-Alt	Enrolled in district during school year for which Absolute Rating is calculated; this includes students enrolled in junior high schools or other school organizations which include grade 9 and in which students are tested with HSAP in addition to students enrolled in high school. Also includes students tested with SC-Alt assessment.
On-time Graduation Rate	Enrolled in grade 9 first time four years prior to year on-time graduation rate calculated (e.g., expected senior year) (includes data from summer following current school year.)
End-of-Course Test Results	Enrolled in district during school year for which Absolute Rating is calculated (includes data from summer following current school year.)

- (2) An index calculated using PASS and End-of-Course assessment performance and SC-Alt Assessment performance of district students in grades three through eight using the same mathematical formula for calculating an Absolute rating index for schools enrolling students in grades three through eight. The index should be calculated using the subject area weights for grades 3-5 and grades 6-8 specified in Act 254. The district index is an average of the Indices from grades 3-5 and grades 6-8 weighted by the total number of test scores across grades 3-8. Students who should be tested but are not tested will be assigned a weight of zero points in the Absolute ratings.

Note: Since the performance rating categories Not Met 1 and Not Met 2 are not available from the SC-Alt results, the following weights for the calculation of absolute and growth Indices should be used:

Weights for Calculation of Indices Using SC-Alt Data

SC-Alt Score	Point Weight
Level 1	1.5
Level 2	3
Level 3	4
Level 4	5

- (3) Points for district high school student performance based on the criteria in the table below on next page.

High School Components of School District Ratings for 2009-2010

Criterion	Points Assigned				
	5	4	3	2	1
First-attempt HSAP and SC-Alt Passing Rate	92.9% or more	83.1–92.8%	63.7–83.0%	53.9–63.6%	Below 53.9%
End-of-Course Test Results	77.2% or more	65.6–77.1%	42.4–65.5%	30.8–42.3%	Below 30.8%
On-time Graduation Rate	93.6% or more	85.2–93.5%	68.2–85.1%	59.7–68.1%	Below 59.7%

(4) A district index based on the data weights listed in the table below.

Weights for Components of District Absolute Ratings, 2009-2010

District Rating Component	Weight for Calculating Rating
Elementary and Middle School Component	
PASS, SC-Alt and middle school End-of-Course results, Grades 3-8	60%
High School Components:	
On-time Graduation Rate	30%
HSAP First Attempt Passing Rate	5%
End-of-Course Test Results	5%
Total	100%

(5) The sum of the weighted index points awarded to each component in the district index. Round the sum to the nearest tenth; this is the district Absolute rating index.

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

District Absolute Rating Criteria, 2009-2010 and Beyond

Range of Indices Corresponding to Absolute Rating				
Excellent	Good	Average	Below Average	At Risk
3.4 or 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 School District

School Level	Measure	Performance Level	Points Assigned		Weight		Weighted Index Points
Elementary/Middle	PASS Grades 3-8	2.92	2.92	X	0.60	=	1.752
High School	HSAP 1 st Attempt	79.4%	3	X	0.05	=	0.150
	End-of-Course Tests	70.2%	4	X	0.05	=	0.200
	On-time Graduation Rate	81.3%	3	X	0.30	=	0.900
District Index							3.002

District index rounded to nearest tenth: 3.0
 Absolute Rating: Average

Growth Rating

District Growth ratings are based on differences between the district high school components for Absolute ratings for the current and previous years and on longitudinal student improvement on the state assessments in grades 3 through 8, recalculated to include all students who were enrolled in the school district by the 45th day of the current school year.

The Education Accountability Act provides that the EOC may consider the performance of subgroups of students in the Growth ratings. Growth ratings are based on longitudinally matched student data, where available.

Calculation of the Growth Index

The district Growth rating index is calculated based on the following components:

- (1) Student data used for the ratings calculations are listed in the table below. (Note: data from students attending charter schools authorized by the local school district are not to be used for calculating the local school district Growth rating.)

Students Whose Data Are Used to Calculate District Growth Ratings

Rating Measure	Students
Palmetto Assessments of State Standards (PASS) & SC-Alt, Grades 3-8	Enrolled in district by 45 th day of year for which Growth rating is calculated and students enrolled by 45 th day of previous school year
HSAP First Attempt	Enrolled in district during school year for which Growth rating is calculated and students enrolled during previous school year. Includes students enrolled in junior high schools or other school organizations which include grade 9 and in which students are tested with HSAP in addition to students enrolled in high school
On-time Graduation Rate	Enrolled in grade 9 first time four years prior to year on-time graduation rate calculated (e.g., expected senior year) (includes data from summer following current school year).
End-of-Course Test Results	Enrolled in district during school year for which Growth rating is calculated and students enrolled in district during previous school year; includes data from summer following current school year.

- (2) For the students whose data are to be included in the growth index calculation ([see previous section, Students Included in the Ratings](#)), a calculated index for the current year and for the prior year. The Indices for each year should be calculated in the same way as the absolute performance index.

For the 2009-2010 school year, the elementary and middle school state assessment data component of the Indices for computing the district Growth rating should be based on matched longitudinal PASS data using the point weights for performance used for calculating Absolute ratings for schools enrolling grades three through eight. PASS student performance levels for every subject area (Reading & Research, Writing, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies) for both the current and previous year are assigned the point weights: Exemplary 5 = 5 points; Exemplary 4 = 4 points; Met = 3 points; Not Met 2 = 2 points; Not Met 1 = 1 point. Using the same methodology as used to calculate Absolute ratings, absolute Indices for the current year are calculated. The elementary and middle school component of the district growth index is the difference between the current year index minus the previous year index.

The high school component of the district growth index is calculated in the same way as the high school component of the district absolute index. The district Indices for the current and previous years are calculated by assigning weights to the components of the district index as listed in the table:

Weights for Components of District Growth Ratings, 2009-2010

District Rating Component	Weight for Calculating Rating
Elementary and Middle School Component	
PASS and SC-Alt, Grades 3-8	60%
High School Components:	
On-time Graduation Rate	30%
HSAP First Attempt Passing Rate	5%
End-of-Course Test Results	5%
Total	100%

- (3) Subtract the district index for the prior year from the district index for the current year and round the result to the nearest tenth. This difference is the growth index. For example, if the current year district index is 3.54 and the prior year's district index was 3.23, the rounded growth index is 0.3. An important point to note is that the absolute performance index calculated to determine the absolute performance rating for a given year and the index for calculating the growth index for the same year may differ because of differences in the 45-day enrollments, and the loss of student data that could not be longitudinally matched.
- (4) Compare the district's growth index to those in the table below to determine the district's Growth rating. For example, the district achieving a growth index of 0.3 would receive a Growth rating of "Good."

District Growth Rating Criteria

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

- (5) A district's Growth rating may be increased by one level if the achievement growth in reading & research 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 non-speech disabilities. The district's eligibility for the increased Growth rating is determined as follows:
 - (1) Calculate the reading & research 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 reading & research growth index for the group to the state two-year average reading & research 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 district exceeds the state two-year average growth index by at least one standard deviation, the district's Growth rating may be increased by one level. If the district is rated Excellent for Growth on the basis of all students, the performance for groups should also be calculated and reported even though the district's rating cannot be increased.

Districts with Absolute Ratings of Excellent in Two Subsequent Years

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