

# Core Issues



2006-07 School Year

FORT MILL SCHOOLS

This special edition of Core Issues provides a summary of the Accountability reports for the 2006-2007 school year. South Carolina is ranked among the top three states in the nation for maintaining very high academic standards for its students. These standards are compared with the National Assessment of Academic Progress (NAEP).

South Carolina State Report Cards show all FMSD schools achieved an Excellent or Good performance rating during the 2006-2007 school year.

The elementary and middle schools are judged by student scores on PACT (Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests), while high school results are based on the scores from the exit exam, End of Course Test and graduation rates. The PACT report that was released earlier this fall shows FMSD scores improved and are among the best in the state. Fort Mill High continued to perform with the best schools in the state and nation.



Despite these achievements, the district's rating dropped for the first time since the Report Card was created. This drop was expected early in the process, when educators predicted that high performing districts would have a hard time meeting the ever increasing performance standard. Improvement is based on students moving from one level to another, such as from Basic to Proficient. However, if a Proficient student (which is the goal of No Child Left Behind) remains at the same level of Proficient, then the school and district receive no credit. Once a student scores Advanced, there is nowhere else to go. That scenario is now being played out in high performing districts all over South Carolina. Not a single district was judged to be Excellent last year.

	Absolute Rating	Improvement Rating
Fort Mill School District	Good	Unsatisfactory
Fort Mill Elementary	Good	Below Average
Gold Hill Elementary	Excellent	Good
Orchard Park Elementary	Excellent	Good
Riverview Elementary	Good	Below Average
Springfield Elementary	Good	Unsatisfactory
Fort Mill Middle	Good	Unsatisfactory
Gold Hill Middle	Good	Below Average
Springfield Middle	Good	Average
Fort Mill High	Excellent	Good

# Report Card Tests

Fort Mill School District is encouraged by the positive direction of student achievement as seen in the 2007 PACT score data. These test results are used to determine school report cards for elementary and middle schools.

Elementary grades continue to have over 90% meeting standards in math and English Language Arts. Third grade is particularly impressive with 96% meeting standard in ELA. Fifth grade math scores increased to 94% meeting standard.

We are pleased with the upward trend seen in the middle grades. Sixth grade hit the 90% benchmark in ELA this year. Sixth, seventh, and eighth grades all showed an increase in math, science and social studies scores.

District-wide, social studies scores improved in all but one grade, which only dropped by 1.6%. It is clear from these results and the overall trend observed, that our teachers are focused on the South Carolina academic standards.

High school report cards are based on results from End of Course (EOC) tests and the High School Assessment Program (HSAP). EOC tests are required for students in Algebra 1, English 1, Physical Science and US History (beginning 2007-2008) and comprise 20% of a student's grade. Scores showed improvement with passing rates as follows: English 1 - 86.9%, Algebra 1 - 96.3% and Physical Science - 75.5%.

PACT	English				Math			
	FMSD 2005	FMSD 2006	FMSD 2007	SC 2007	FMSD 2005	FMSD 2006	FMSD 2007	SC 2007
<b>Grade 3</b>	97.2%	95.3%	96.0%	85.3%	95.4%	94.4%	92.7%	78.4%
<b>Grade 4</b>	93.2%	93.3%	95.3%	82.7%	92.4%	93.5%	91.0%	78.1%
<b>Grade 5</b>	91.6%	94.7%	93.8%	77.2%	89.1%	92.3%	94.0%	77.7%
<b>Grade 6</b>	81.6%	87.5%	90.2%	70.9%	89.5%	91.6%	92.6%	77.2%
<b>Grade 7</b>	88.7%	89.8%	87.5%	69.8%	84.3%	90.7%	93.2%	76.8%
<b>Grade 8</b>	90.8%	89.8%	89.4%	71.3%	83.4%	82.6%	89.4%	67.9%

Science				Social Studies			
FMSD 2005	FMSD 2006	FMSD 2007	SC 2007	FMSD 2005	FMSD 2006	FMSD 2007	SC 2007
82.2%	82.2%	86.3%	64.5%	88.9%	94.0%	96.3%	84.7%
84.0%	85.0%	80.8%	63.8%	91.5%	91.2%	89.6%	73.7%
81.9%	85.2%	84.7%	60.6%	82.7%	85.2%	87.6%	63.8%
77.9%	74.8%	81.7%	59.5%	82.0%	80.6%	91.3%	77.1%
83.8%	82.4%	84.8%	64.8%	75.8%	76.3%	77.4%	57.3%
80.8%	80.9%	87.5%	63.7%	86.9%	84.5%	88.0%	65.9%

Students in their second spring of high school are also required to take the High School Assessment Program or HSAP.

High School Assessment Program (Sophomore Test Results)						
Subject	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	FMHS	State	FMHS	State	FMHS	State
<b>English/Language Arts</b>	95.7%	86.2%	94.1%	84.9%	95.9%	88.1%
<b>Mathematics</b>	92.3%	76.3%	91.7%	80.2%	93%	79.6%

# College Preparation

Fort Mill high school students participate in both college entrance exam programs. In both the ACT and SAT tests, FMSD students historically score above both the state and the national average.

ACT RESULTS						
SUBJECT	FMSD		SC		US	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
English	21.3	20.8	19.0	18.9	20.7	20.6
Math	21.8	22.1	19.8	19.6	21.0	20.8
Reading	21.8	21.1	19.8	19.7	21.5	21.4
Science	21.4	21.8	19.5	19.4	21.0	20.9
<b>Composite</b>	21.7	21.6	19.6	19.5	21.2	21.1

SAT RESULTS						
SUBJECT	FMSD		SC		US	
	2007	2006	2007	2006	2007	2006
Reading	515	533	488	487	502	503
Math	533	549	496	498	515	518
Writing	503	519	475	480	494	497
<b>Composite</b>	1551	1601	1459	1465	1511	1518

## AYP Results

Under the federal No Child Left Behind law, all children are expected to perform at a proficient level on the state test by the year 2014. Schools and districts are to meet Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) toward that goal each year. No school district in South Carolina met AYP this year.

The state relies on the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test, exit exam and graduation rate results to determine AYP. District PACT results showed improvement in many areas within the Fort Mill School District and those results led the state. However, under NCLB, that improvement wasn't enough.

Last school year, nationally respected educator, Dr. Don Thomas, presented his annual evaluation of the Fort Mill School District. Despite having schools that he considers among the best in the nation, Dr. Thomas predicted that all will eventually fall short of AYP.

The federal law divides schools into subgroups of students. A subgroup (objective) can be based on race, disability, socio-economic levels or English proficiency. For instance, under No Child Left Behind, a group of students who cannot speak or write English must take the state

tests and score Proficient in order to meet the ultimate goal. Every student in each subgroup must show progress or the school does not meet AYP.

Five of our nine schools that were open in 2006-2007 made AYP. Here are the results, based on the number of objectives met:

FMSD - met 28 of 33 objectives

Fort Mill High - met 16 of 17

Fort Mill Middle - met 16 of 21

Gold Hill Middle - met 19 of 19

Springfield Middle - met 18 of 19

Fort Mill Elementary - met 21 of 21

Gold Hill Elementary - met 11 of 11

Orchard Park Elementary - met 21 of 21

Riverview Elementary - met 19 of 19

Springfield Elementary - met 16 of 17

The district is encouraged by the very small margins by which objectives were not met in the schools that did not make AYP.

In most cases, since the number of students in a particular subgroup is low, the difference between making AYP and not making AYP can come down to just one student. If that one student is in multiple subgroups, then the school could miss multiple AYP objectives.