

# Business Involvement: Critical to Success in Education

## Workplace Skills

- ✓ Nearly 100 percent (99.1 percent) of business respondents stated that workplace skills were either *Critical*, *Very Important*, or *Important* in a list of skills that young people need leaving school in the 21st century. Educator respondents ranked workplace skills equally as high.
- ✓ Overwhelmingly, business stakeholders responded that the most important skills that students must acquire to be successful in the workforce are listening, teamwork, observation skills, and reading for information.
- ✓ Motivation/commitment and poor communication skills were identified by business respondents to be skills that employees most often lack.

## Skills that are important to young people as they leave school in the 21st century\*

	Critical	Very Important	Important
Reading	78.0%	19.1%	3.0%
Skills to Succeed in the Workplace	59.1%	32.3%	7.7%
Math	59.8%	29.5%	10.7%
Writing	61.5%	29.1%	9.0%
Science	25.6%	34.6%	33.3%
Music and art	3.8%	26.0%	43.8%
Creative skills	30.6%	43.8%	21.3%
Ability to use technology	71.3%	23.6%	4.6%
Ability to do well on tests	10.2%	24.3%	46.0%

\*Responses among only business stakeholders.

## Important skills as measured by Work Keys\*

	Critical	Very Important	Important
Listening	56.1%	24.5%	4.3%
Teamwork	56.5%	21.3%	6.7%
Observation	45.5%	26.9%	11.9%
Reading for Information	44.3%	28.1%	11.9%
Writing	34.4%	28.1%	19.4%
Locating Information	40.7%	29.2%	11.9%
Applied Mathematics	20.6%	30.0%	24.9%
Applied Technology	20.6%	32.0%	21.3%
Business Writing	21.3%	29.6%	20.9%

\*Responses among only business stakeholders

## The Future of South Carolina's Workforce

- ✓ Well over half (67 percent) of business survey respondents believed SC public schools are *not* providing students with the key knowledge they need to succeed
- ✓ Business respondents ranked the availability of training and education for employees and the ability to retain an existing workforce highest when asked about factors that would allow their business to expand employment.
- ✓ Over 60 percent of business respondents stated that a graduation rate of at least 90 percent was acceptable for young people graduating in 2020 in South Carolina.

## Do SC public schools provide students with key knowledge?

	Business	Parents	Educators	Taxpayers
Yes	21.2%	46.4%	56.2%	36.0%
No	67.4%	45.7%	37.2%	55.6%
Don't Know	11.4%	7.9%	6.6%	8.4%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%