

By 2010, South Carolina's student achievement will be ranked in the top half of states nationally.

To achieve the goal, we must become one of the five fastest improving systems in the country.

Where Are We Now?

The quality of South Carolina's economic future depends upon the education system. To propel needed educational change, the state has adopted an education goal to steer us to the year 2010. As the state experiences improved levels of student achievement, the goal should be adjusted to reflect even higher aspirations for the next decades.

During the Fall of 2000, the S.C. Education Oversight Committee organized a long-range planning team to identify major elements of the educational system that should be addressed to meet the 2010 goal. The team included elected officials and education, business and community leaders.

The team identified nine strategic issues for public actions:

1. Governance and Structure of the System;
2. Sufficient Funding for All School Districts and Schools;
3. Efficient Use of Resources and Accountability;
4. Education for Economic Development;
5. Leadership and Coalition Building;
6. Teacher Quality;
7. Early Childhood Education and Development;
8. Community and Parental Support and Involvement; and,
9. Safe and Healthy Schools.

Nine points of evaluation linked directly to the goal were established to annually measure the state's progress. This report presents the progress on the nine evaluation points used to measure student and school performance.

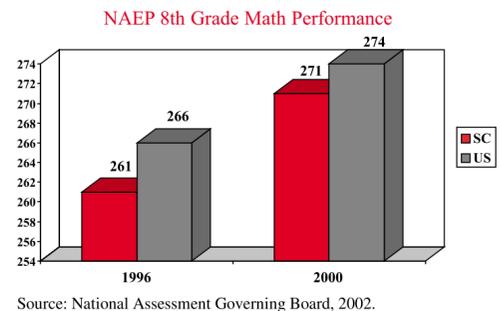
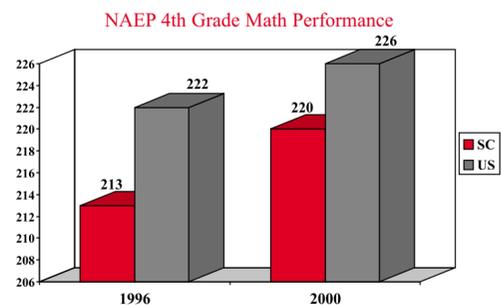
Goal 1

SC will rank in the top half of states on NAEP examinations and other international and national measures.

Measurement: a. NAEP (The National Assessment of Educational Progress) assesses achievement nationally and in participating states. NAEP tests are given every two years in different content areas. The most recent math (2000) results show that SC improved at a higher rate than did the nation.

NAEP Grade/Subject	Average Scale Score		National Ranking
	SC	Nation	
4/Reading 1998	210	215	33 of 42
4/Math 1996	213	222	41 of 47
4/Math 2000	220	226	30 of 46*
8/Reading 1998	255	261	33 of 39
8/Math 1996	261	271	39 of 44
8/Math 2000	266	274	29 of 46**
8/Science 1996	139	148	39 of 45
8/Writing 1998	140	148	32 of 39

*TN, GA and NC scored the same as SC. ** GA scored the same as SC.
Source: National Assessment Governing Board, 2002.



Goal 1 Continued

Measurement: b. TIMSS & TIMSS-R (Third International Math & Science Study, 1995 and 1999 Repeater). Of 13 participating states, SC ranks 9th.

TIMSS-R 8 th Grade 1999	SC	US	International
Mathematics	502	502	487
Science	515	515	488

Source: SC Department of Education, 2000.

Measurement: c. TerraNova Survey Testing Program replaced MAT-7 (1995-98) in 1999. A sample of students in the 5th, 8th and 11th grades took the test in 2000. A sample of students in the 4th, 7th and 10th grades took the test in 2001.

TerraNova % of SC Students in the Upper Half Category 2000-2001							
Grade	Reading		Language		Math		Total
	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000	2001	2000
4		47.8		43.1		58.4	50.5
5	48.2		51.1		51.4		50.0
7		45.8		59.4		54.7	53.9
8	52.3		49.5		52.0		51.5
10		59.6		59.5		62.4	59.1
11	57.1		56.7		52.9		55.9

Source: SC Department of Education, 2000 & 2001.

In both years, SC students scored at or above the national level in almost all grades/subjects and exceeded the national average at 10th grade in 2001.

Note: In order to reach national average, the number of SC students scoring in the upper half has to be at 50 percent or above.

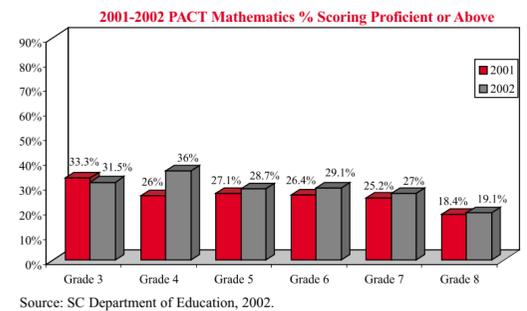
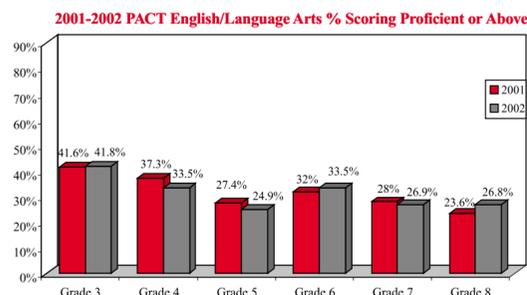
Goal 2

Nine out of 10 SC students will score Proficient or above on PACT, South Carolina's standards-based criterion-referenced tests.

Measurement: PACT (Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test) uses four terms to indicate student performance levels: Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced. Performance at the Proficient level or above means a student is well prepared for the next grade. The scores reported are based upon students enrolled in the school as of the 45th day and present for testing.

English Language Arts: The percentage of students scoring Proficient or above in 2002 was 31.2 across all grades or about three out of 10 students. This is a slight decline from 2001 when 31.8% of students scored Proficient or above. Declines occurred in the 4th, 5th, and 7th grades.

Mathematics: The percentage of students scoring Proficient or above in 2002 was 28.6 across all grades or nearly three out of 10 students. This represents an increase from 2001 when 26.1% of students scored Proficient or above. Increases occurred at in every grade, except the 3rd grade.

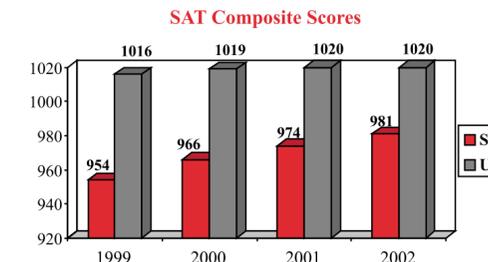


Source: SC Department of Education, 2002.

Goal 3

SC will rank in the top half of states on the SAT and ACT.

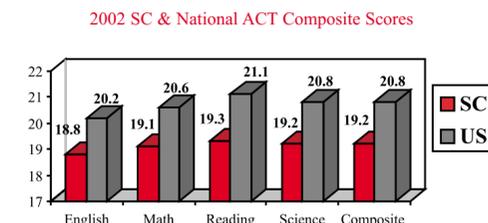
Measurement: a. SC's SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) state ranking for 2002 is 49. Since 1999, SAT scores in SC have increased by 27 points. When the 2002 performance is compared with the 1999 performance, the average verbal score has increased nine points in SC, as compared to a decrease of one point within that time period for the nation. The average math score increased by 18 points in SC, as compared to an increase of five points for the nation.



Note: SAT scores range from 200 to 1600.
Source: SC Department of Education, Office of Research, 2002.

Measurement: b. ACT (American College Test) is a college-entrance testing program focusing on identifying students for admission to colleges and universities. ACT scores range from one to 36. SC and national scores have changed little between 2000 and 2002.

Information on ACT ranking by state is not available.

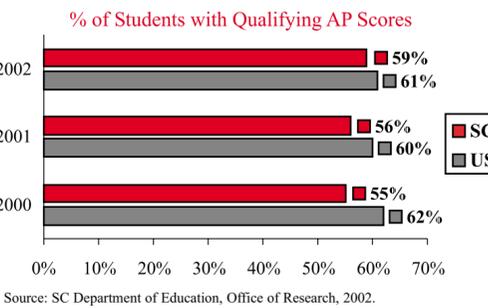


Source: SC Department of Education, Office of Research, 2002.

Goal 4

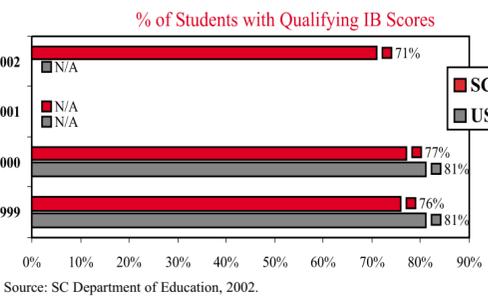
SC Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate Program passage rates will be at or above the national average and SC students are receiving college credit as well as high school credit for courses offered under PACE or university program sponsorship.

Measurement: a. A score of three, four, or five on AP (Advanced Placement) exams is considered passing the test and qualifying for college credit. Currently, SC's average of qualifying scores is below the national average by two percentage points. AP participation is increasing at the national and state levels.



Source: SC Department of Education, Office of Research, 2002.

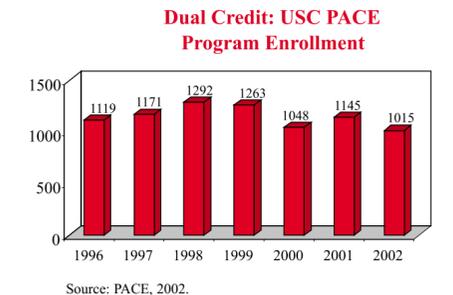
Measurement: b. The number of schools offering IB (International Baccalaureate) programs, number of students participating in IB and the number of exams taken are increasing. The percentage of qualifying scores has declined slightly.



Source: SC Department of Education, 2002.

Goal 4 Continued

Measurement: c. The USC PACE (Program for Accelerated College Education) Program enrollment serves as an example. Credit earned in the PACE program at USC is transferable to most institutions of higher education in the US. Only data on enrollment, not success, are available.



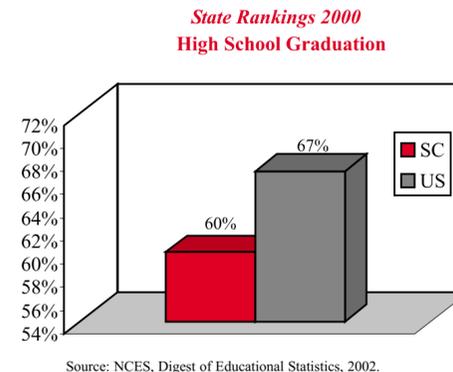
Source: PACE, 2002.

GOAL 5

High school completion rate will be at or above national average.

Measurement: There are three ways of calculating the high school completion rate.

1. A high school graduation rate as reported in *State Rankings 2000, A Statistical View of the 50 United States* reveals SC's rate as below the national average. It is calculated by comparing the estimated number of public high school graduates in 2000 with the 9th grade enrollment in the Fall of 1996.



Source: NCES, Digest of Educational Statistics, 2002.

2. A second high school completion rate as reported by the National Center for Education Statistics and the SC Department of Education is calculated by comparing the estimated number of public high school graduates in 2001 with the 8th grade enrollment in the Fall of 1996.

NCES & State Department of Education Graduation Rate		
8 th Grade Enrollment 1996-1997	12 th Grade Enrollment 2000-01	Completion Rate
50,304	33,131	65.9

Source: SC Department of Education, Office of Research, 2002.
NCES, Common Core of Data, 2002.

3. A third high school completion rate as reported by the SC Department of Education is calculated by comparing the estimated number of public high school graduates in 2001 plus number of students getting a GED with the 8th grade enrollment in the Fall of 1996.

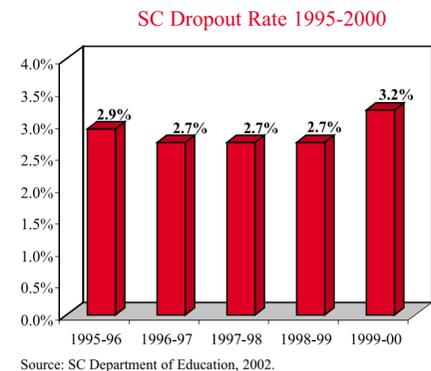
State Department of Education Completion Rate			
8 th Grade Enrollment 1996-97	12 th Grade Enrollment 2000-01	#Students Getting GED	Completion Rate
50,304	33,131	6,549	78.9

Source: SC Department of Education, 2002.

Goal 6

High school dropout rate will be in the lower half of the states.

Measurement: *State Rankings 2000, A Statistical View of the 50 United States* does not have information for SC as well as for 11 other states that do not follow the same data collection procedures. SC calculates dropout rates using the total number of dropouts for the 9th through the 12th grades divided by the total number of enrollment for the 9th through the 12th grades expressed as a percentage, as seen in the chart to the right.



Goal 7

SC will be in the top half of states in percentage of students with disabilities earning a high school diploma.

Measurement: The percentage of students with disabilities receiving a high school diploma or certificate is displayed in the table on the right. Recent data for the nation are not available.

Comparison of SC and National, % of Students with Disabilities Receiving High School Diploma or Certificate					
Year	Students with Disabilities in SC Age 17 – 21			% of students with Disabilities receiving a diploma or certificate	
	Total # Students	# Receiving Diploma	#Receiving Certificate	South Carolina	National
1999	7,045	1,093	1,094	31.0	57.4
2000	7,380	1,033	986	27.4	NA
2001	7,522	1,120	1,106	30	NA

Source: SC Department of Education, Office of Exceptional Children, 2002. US Department of Education, Office of Special Education, 2002.

Goal 8

SC will be in the top half of states in freedom from drugs, weapons, violence, and teacher victimization by students.

Measurement: There are no national data available for comparison at this time. As federal data collections are adjusted, those data are to be reported. SC Department of Education produces annually the *SC School Crime Reports*. The figures presented in the table compares the number of incidents of the top 10 crimes over the past five years.

Top Ten Crimes in SC Schools 1998-2002					
Crime	YEAR				
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Simple Assault	NA	3,489	3,504	3,972	3,851
Pages	1,103	NA	NA	NA	NA
Disturbing Schools	2,690	2,051	2,051	2,649	2,605
Intimidation	539	1,017	1,017	1,005	867
Weapon Possession	970	996	860	875	813
Drug Possession	940	NA	751	906	937
Larceny/Theft	655	718	720	969	915
Vandalism	618	646	616	619	613
Aggravated Assault	596	724	412	369	441
Liquor Violations	265	202	233	194	NA
Burglary/B&E	363	320	230	215	NA

Source: SC Department of Education, 2002.

Goal 9

The gap among achievements of students of different racial/ethnic groups and different economic status will be eliminated.

Measurement: a. SAT: Differences in SAT (Scholastic Assessment Test) performance among White, African-American, and Hispanic students are to be eliminated.

There has been a slight increase in the achievement of African-American students in the last decade, but the improvement in achievement for White students has been more significant.

While both groups have shown improvement, the achievement gap between the two groups has not been narrowed. The gap between White and Hispanic students increased.

Note: Data for free/reduced price lunch participating students are not available.

Measurement: b. ACT: The ACT (American College Test) includes four tests: English, Mathematics, Reading, and Science Reasoning. Results are reported for all four tests and as a composite score. The range of the scores for each ACT subject area, as well as the composite score, is from one to 36.

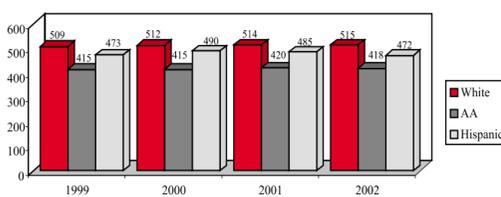
Note: Data for Hispanic students are not available.

Measurement: c. Advanced Placement: Differences in AP performance (percent of qualifying scores) among White, African-American, and Hispanic students are to be eliminated.

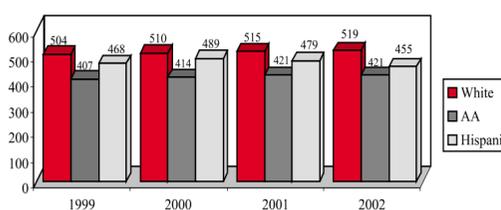
A score of three, four, or five is considered passing the test and qualifying for college credit.

Note: Data for free/reduced price lunch participating students are not available.

SAT Composite Scores by Ethnic Group (Verbal)



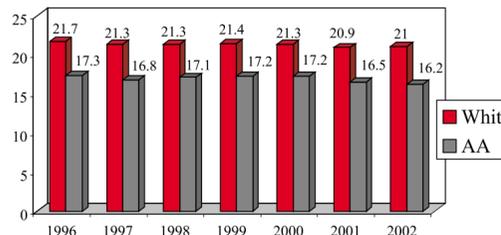
SAT Composite Scores by Ethnic Group (Mathematics)



Source: SC Department of Education, Office of Research, 2002. College Board, 2002.

Note: 13% did not report an ethnic group.

ACT Composite Scores by Ethnic Group



Source: SC Department of Education, Office of Research, 2002. College Board, 2002.

% AP Qualifying Scores by Ethnic Group

	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
African-American	26	28	21	24	24	17	25	23	26	32
White	57	59	55	55	58	60	60	60	61	62
Hispanic	55	69	60	69	55	55	60	58	59	61

Source: College Board, 2002.

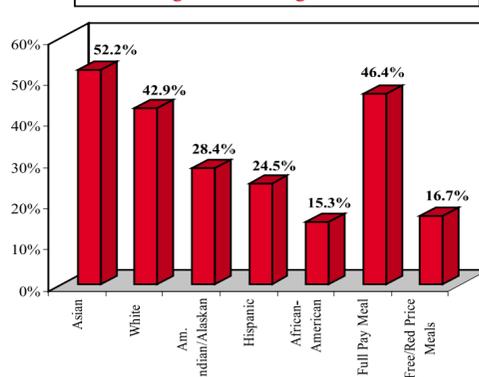
Goal 9 Continued

Measurement: d. PACT: Data for these categories are to be followed over the next several years. Adjustments in the student groups preclude use of data before 2002 for comparison. The 2002 PACT results in 3rd through 8th grades show wide disparities of achievement among White and African-American students.

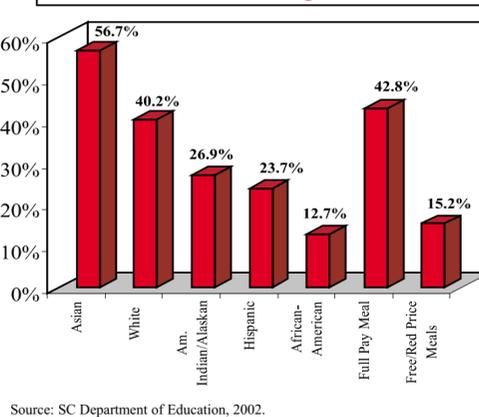
While more White students than African-American students (1.3 White students for every one African-American student) took PACT, the proportion of White students scoring Advanced on **English/language arts** was 7.5 times that of African-American students. For every African-American student scoring Advanced, there were 10 White students. For every African-American student scoring Proficient or above, there were 3.7 White students doing the same.

In **mathematics**, for every African-American student scoring Advanced, 7.4 White students scored Advanced. For every African-American student scoring Proficient or above, there were 4.2 White students doing the same.

2002 English % Scoring Proficient or Above



2002 Mathematics % Scoring Proficient or Above



Source: SC Department of Education, 2002.



South Carolina Education Oversight Committee
1105 Pendleton Street, Suite 227
Columbia, SC 29201
PO Box 11867
Columbia, SC 29211
803-734-6148

www.sceoc.org

The South Carolina Education Oversight Committee

WHERE ARE WE NOW?

South Carolina's Progress To The 2010 Education Goal

December 2002