

Abbeville County

1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?

- Keep the best in Abbeville
- Stretch our economy
- Jobs- new and keeping old ones
- Revenue coming to county, school
- Better industries
- Opportunities for graduating seniors
- Attract more people to love, shop, work
- Keeping folks at home to work, live
- Quality work force
- Improved quality of life
- Achievement has an impact (total) on our community. (economic and social)
- Quality education leads to quality community which supports quality education
- The community will change with positive change

2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)

- Increased parent support and involvement
- Reach children at birth
- Year-round school
- Focus and coordinate current local resources
- Increased early childhood intervention programs
- More parenting programs
- Better understanding of diversity
- Continued staff development
- Recreational after school programs- YMCA, Boys Club etc.
- Higher expectations for students
- More State Money for full-day 4-Year-Old Program and for Teachers and Facilities
- Greater sense of urgency to educate students
- Leave excuses behind
- Goal 4-digit SAT score
- Stay focused on district goals
- Parent accountability
- Inverse relationship between student promotion and parent participation
- Change students' perceptions (athletics vs. academics)
- Create team spirit for achieving academic success
- Need for more mentors in outer schools (schools outside of the city)
- Focus on teacher quality
- Teacher-student ratio- keep low
- Reduce paperwork for teachers
- Assistance for teachers to allow more teaching time- assistants, more pay, TIME

Strengths:

- Milliken Mentors- great support
- Strength- 4K programs, some after school programs

Challenges:

- Where we are: Average

- Raising Expectation level of community
- Success begins with parents/ guardians- when not present look for all alternatives
- A lot of us don't know how to help/ change (parents/community)
- Get ideas from the top states and put them to work in the schools and community
- Strengthen school- strong mentor program
- Schools/ teachers give list of suggestions to help student achievement- follow up on it

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

- Business partnerships with schools
- Parent support through PTO
- Mentoring, shadowing
- After school programs
- Early childhood programs like First Steps and Project Success
- Lander, Erskine supply student teachers
- Some churches doing after school programs
- Sheriff Resource Officers, DARE in schools
- Transportation provided for programs
- Technical education available
- Better scholarships for adult learners

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- Resources for early childhood community centers
- Raise level of knowledge among community leaders
- Accountability should begin with parents
- Teach children that education is valuable
- Work plans allow time for parents to be involved
- Volunteer to mentor
- Set education as priority in community
- Parents help with homework/ outside help with homework
- Send students to school clean and rested
- Parent report cards from school/ to school
- Educate young adults to reduce unwed mothers

Aiken County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Improved quality of life – present and future impacting forces.
 - Improved quality of life
 - Economic – industry skilled labor force
 - Arts
 - Pride in community
 - Achievement pride
 - 100 percent graduation rate
 - More opportunity for his/her learning
 - In Aiken we have a dichotomy – it is important to some and not others – social/economic
 - Prepared individuals and flexible/multi-task
 - Achieve but not employed social/racial Not scholastic

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Needed early childhood programs, home/school connections
 - Quality educators, facilities, and resources
 - Technology
 - Parental desire/support
 - Perceived to be a value by the community
 - Step up with leadership to make education number one priority.
 - More and definitive incentives
 - Time on task – extended school year
 - Top load funds to younger generation
 - Life skills
 - Teacher/home life
 - Attendance – Parental Accountability

Strengths:

 - Business and community support

Challenges:

 - Define success
 - : Improve summer programs involvement
 - \$
 - Collaborations to increase parental involvement in schools
 - Lofty goals for better life and education
 - We need political will

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - Partnership w/ seniors, rotary, summer programs, PEP
 - Partnerships with universities and tech schools
 - Public education partners
 - Contributions from business
 - Shadowing – School to work
 - Volunteers

- Church support
- Recreation
- Public Safety

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- Reconnect the disconnect. Educate people – show direct correlation for how it impacts them personally. Accountability
- Support being vocal
- Provide information and access to parent and community resources
- High expectation of being on time
- Promote family education
- Communicate about Adult education
- Parental accountability
- Stricter discipline at school
- Resources for early childhood community centers

Allendale County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**

- More jobs opportunities
- Change of attitude
- Ownership
- Everything
- Pride
- Jobs
- Increased population
- Better quality of life

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**

- Local support from business and industry
- Help parents help themselves and their children – need for stability in their lives
- Building relationships
- Teach to students and not the test
- Informed parents/community
- Need recreational activities
- Adult literacy
- Unique programs offered

Strengths:

- (none listed)

Challenges:

- Faith community is not involved
- Trust, power and control
- Communication
- Hopelessness
- Low expectations internally and externally
- I Can't Attitude
- Lack of understanding
- Trust, Power, and Control
- Library hours
- Hispanic curriculum
- Funding, poverty, transportation
- Change paradigm

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**

- SRP
- Scotsman
- CIS
- USC-Aiken
- USC-Salkahatchie
- Chamber of Commerce
- Clemson Extension
- Denmark Tech

- ALIVE
- SCSU

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- Early intervention with families
- Capacity
- Stat information
- Churches and organizations offering tutoring
- Community learning centers

Anderson County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - (did not discuss)
2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed?**
(Strengths & Challenges)
 - Challenge each other to hold families and ourselves accountable with support
 - Target 3 year/ 4 year programs- early childhood
 - Family literacy coordinates work with families
 - Fiscal autonomy for local boards
 - Utilize and collaborate with existing resources available in community including, but not limited to senior citizens, businesses (balance check book, resume, attitude) and churches

Strengths:

 - (not discussed)

Challenges:

 - Marketable skills for non-graduates
 - Reinforcing the soft skills
3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - Resources for early childhood community centers
4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
Family expectations- tax cuts for families with children who pass the test
 - Family expectations – tax cuts for families with children who pass the test
 - Encourage life long learning

Bamberg County

1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?

- Scoring well on state report cards
- Enhances economic growth
- Children work up to their full potential
- Compete with the world
- Safer community
- Everything
- Preparing the student so he/she can go into the world and support himself/herself
- Economic growth
- Increase the intelligence level
- Improve interpersonal relationships – tolerance of differences

2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)

- More money for resources to help in homes/families and after school programs
- Interactive lessons for students and training for teachers
- The training for teachers so that they are able to teach every student in their class regardless of levels
- Release teachers from teaching grade level standards so they can spend some time meeting the educational needs of the student
- Stronger leaders and better parent-teacher relationships
- Money
- Community Involvement
- Political will
- Curriculum – interesting courses with real world application
- Qualified teachers
- Discipline
- Fair distribution of funding

Challenges:

- Low expectations are a reality
- Poverty

Strengths

- Increase in parental involvement
- Community theater
- PTA's

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

- After school programs
- Business and school partnerships
- Program that student participate in – motivated to succeed
- Industry – school to work, shadowing, mentoring
- Supportive law enforcement
- Latchkey programs

- First Steps
- Junior Leadership
- Church support

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- Better developed community and school involvement (more coordinated, targeted effort)
- More mentors for students through the churches, nursing homes, etc.
- Make an impact on decreased teenage pregnancies
- Improve community connections
- Home reading programs

Barnwell County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Enticement for business and industry; community expectations drives socioeconomic growth and development
 - Economic development
 - Increased quality of life

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Adequate funding/equal statewide funding
 - Discontinue unfunded mandates
 - Open public access for education experiences
 - Greater access to the arts
 - Much be involved
 - More funding
 - Increased parent education and involvement
 - Focus on early education and care - quality

Challenges:

 - Strengthen collaboration among all stakeholders/agencies

Strengths

 - (none listed)

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - Business/industry partnerships
 - Arts Council support
 - Community action groups
 - Health education – exercise and nutrition
 - Employers, employees schools mentoring and character education
 - First Steps

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
 - Maintain high expectations
 - Requirements for parental involvement
 - Help and assistance to schools
 - Volunteer
 - Communicate needs and success
 - Reinforce school goals, mission and vision

Beaufort County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - (responses not listed)

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed?
(Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Sharing best practices of successful schools in our community and statewide
 - Close the achievement gap
 - EOC needs to tell us how to make it work
 - Keeping expectations high for all levels
 - School Improvement Councils need more teeth, need community involvement
 - More diagnostic information in assessment of individual students
 - Salary for principals not at state level – needed to attract talent - Recognize differences between SC counties - salary may be high, but cost of living is high so salary isn't as high as it seems
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 - Students need to see what income potential for technical learning
 - Look for work keys model for selection

Strengths:

 - Parent University (Jasper County) – why learning is important, resources available, homework
 - After school programs
 - Retirement home partnerships with schools

Challenges:

 - Diverse population- mobile/ highly educated - 5-89% mobility per year
 - Growing need for special needs schools
 - Funding schools in a “No Taxes” atmosphere
 - No incentive for students to learn- wages higher with/without diploma
 - Don't have an industrial base for students to move to “no place”

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - Davis Elementary partnered with local churches to have Saturday evening events for parents and students

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
 - Parents need to do the right thing – having children on time and clothed for school
 - More coordinated effort between family-school-community

Berkeley County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - How are numbers stack up defines who we are – we want to see improved test scores.
 - Student staying school through graduation
 - Students staying in the community
 - Economic growth

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Neighborhood schools
 - After school program in churches, community organizations,
 - Using retired teachers effectively
 - Provide positive role models for students
 - Teacher training
 - Continue advocating for multiple measures for viewing student growth
 - Remind people that short term solutions are insidious by nature
 - Focus on gentle, relentless pressure for improvement with the support to make it not only possible but probable
 - Resources for early childhood and preschool (4 and 3 year olds)
 - Parent intervention language and thinking
 - Mandatory preschool summer school especially for poverty level kids to sustain and reinforce learning

Challenges:

 - Funding

Strengths

 - Outreach to retired citizens to work in schools – huge resource

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - Work study programs
 - Career days
 - Project inquiry – training science teachers
 - After school programs
 - Career clusters
 - After school to work
 - School to work
 - Mentoring

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
 - Parenting programs in schools
 - Home visits – First Steps
 - Reducing language barriers for non-English speaking students
 - Need transportation for parents to get to schools for meeting
 - Good PR from schools to community

Calhoun County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Jobs
 - Economic development
 - Better quality of life for all

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Motivation for students to learn as they move through the upper grade
 - Provide incentives for students to learn (example shared was the incentives for students to meet Michael Jordan for improved math performance. Math scores improved by 20 percents for students in a Chicago school.)
 - Family literacy and training (modeling effective parenting practices)
 - Ensuring what is provided to students during the school day is encouragement and quality teaching.
 - Teachers demonstrating a genuine care and concern for each individual student.
 - Keeping expectations high
 - Need to think outside of the box – be creative in reaching students
 - Schools need to better understand individual children lives – what is going on in their home/family life – and not lump all children into the same categories.
 - Exciting lessons to motivate children so they can make the connection

Strengths:

 - Strong faith based community
 - Support from community organizations, chamber, media.
 - Do not have the discipline/criminal issues
 - People are willing to help “just waiting to be asked”

Challenges:

 - Losing males in middle schools for cultural reason – not cool to be smart
 - Parental expectations are different (it’s ok not to achieve – always get a job somewhere)
 - Education is not as valued as it once was (people in the community used to watch out for children and asked about school – set expectations high)
 - Single parent families and working parents (odd hours)
 - Getting students excited about schools – children need to know they are special, cared for
 - Exciting lessons to motivate children to make the connection
 - Extended learning for children who are behind
 - Utilize untapped resources in the community- secondary athletics

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**

- Satellite reading in churches
- Provide reading subscriptions
- Trying to establish "traditions"
- Not a central community

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- (not listed)

Charleston County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**

- Ultimate survival of our society
- Quality of life impacts everything
- Biggest issue facing this community is to get every child educated
- More meaningful employment
- Higher standards of living
- Empowerment
- Healthy community
- More informed constituents and better decision makers
- Philosophical shift
- % public and % of private collaboration
- Too much emphasis on test scores
- Teaching to the test
- Recognize good curriculum standards
- Want all students graduating from high school

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**

- Strong leadership and instructional staff in all schools - if move principal from successful schools – ability to move staff
- Teachers to teach the standards
- Uniform grading scale
- School board needs to be expanded
- Additional contract days for teachers to allow for more time and resources for professional development
- Smaller schools/smaller classrooms/cluster programs
- Mentoring and Career Education Programs that make learning real
- Include diverse curriculum that includes all students benefiting
- Adequate funding
- Parent training resource centers
- Community wide commitment
- Use methods and strategies of successful schools and school district
- Partnership achieving schools with low achieving schools
- Identify mentors for every student in grade school – commitment to every child
- Comprehensive Resource Guide
- Community Bulletin Board
- Engage retirement community

Challenges:

- Lack of funding for innovative programs
- PACT does not have a diagnostic component – needs to be comprehensive and diagnostic
- Communicate more effectively about resources and better coordination
- Drop off of achievement in high school success

- No long term data on PACT – do students who score well on test do well later in life?
- Rural communities predominately African American community - ? related – continuity
- In pushing in top of SAT – parents not interested to taking advanced courses
- Reward system
- CD/honors penalized for AP/IB
- Qualification of principals – how do we ensure those leading schools are qualified – more than certification - quality of skills and ability to lead.
- How do you get around focus in family – finding out how you do research in what is needed
- Eliminating the drop out rate
- Increase parent and business involvement
- Principals need an incentive for having students with special needs

Strengths

- Build link with colleges to improve school and community support – there should be a course for teachers like the one Salkahatchie that serves Allendale teachers.
- Success by Six – trying to get National Accreditation for Early Childhood program
- Communities in Schools program (needs more support from the school district)
- Promise Alliance – commitment makers

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

- Communities in Schools having impact in middle schools
- Middle school certification climbing up
- Defining what is a learning community

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- School district needs to have contact with every family of newborns introducing all services available to them before each child reaches school age
- Need to disseminate information about available resources

Cherokee County

1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?

- More jobs
- More high school graduates and fewer dropouts
- Prosperity (wages economic development)
- Less crime
- Better cultural activities
- Stronger families
- High self-esteem
- Everything (depending on the community)
- Economic development for the business community
- Academic success for schools
- Athletics
- Less crime/safer neighborhoods
- Higher standard of living
- Cultural understanding
- Skilled workforce
- Spiritual enhancement

2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)

- After school programs
- Access to reading
- Parenting skills
- Smaller class sizes
- Raise the bar for students (equal access to school supplies)
- Teacher advisory council (teaching not fun)
- After school programs
- Pre-school programs
- Parent Involvement Training
- Attitude adjustments for students, parents, and teachers
- Higher expectations
- Improved career guidance

Challenges:

- Adequate funding to meet student needs
- Parent involvement and volunteerism
- Dental and mental health services for students
- Positive reinforcement at home and school
- Encourage after school attendance
- Parents encouraging parents (group meetings)
- Crisis counseling for children
- Support law enforcement neighborhood watch (drugs)
- Summer activities

Strengths

- Homework centers
- Cooperation between schools and community groups
- Fine Arts

- Athletics program
- Business/community challenge
- State Chamber 5 programs
- Job shadowing
- After school
- Low student/teacher ratios

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

- Career planning (guidance) in middle schools
- Boys and girls club
- Lunch buddies
- Abundance Angels program
- School business partners
- Athletics
- COS
- After school programs from B&GC, churches, YMCA, Salvation Army, and Housing Authority
- Year-round schools
- Renaissance program at GHS
- Career Education Advisory Council
- PTO
- SICs

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- Improve parental involvement
- Read to children
- Make sure children graduate
- Break welfare cycle
- Stress importance of education
- Partner more
- Attach drivers license privileges to graduation
- More positive public relations

Chester County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Jobs
 - Retraining youth
 - Reducing poverty
 - Quality of life
 - Community pride – optimism and hope
 - Confidence in elected officials
 - Survival
 - Economic growth

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Use what works – don't reinvent the wheel
 - Increase parental involvement
 - More after school programs across county coordination
 - Discipline
 - Parental support – communication and vision

Challenges:

 - Funding
 - Student tracking

Strengths

 - Year-round schools
 - Springs Close Foundation
 - Lutz Etc Support
 - Business support
 - Good Teachers
 - CIS
 - First Steps
 - Junior Achievement
 - Success by Six
 - Adult Education
 - Distance Learning Labs
 - Family literacy
 - Chamber/Education Foundation
 - Co-Op
 - TUFF

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - True commitment to programs – share success

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
 - Volunteer in schools
 - Strengthening our schools
 - More participants

- Be positive
- Total community

Chesterfield County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Life skills
 - Productive and contributing members of society
 - Diverse voices – balance
 - Jobs – good and here
 - Minorities in management
 - Opportunities for success
 - Communication/teamwork/character education

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Challenges:**
 - Social skills
 - Conflict resolution
 - Meeting industry needs
 - High turnover
 - Finding and keeping high quality teachers
 - Parental involvement
 - Competitiveness among towns
 - Literacy
 - Strengths**
 - Small town
 - Best facilities
 - Technical colleges
 - Prode
 - One language
 - People are deicated
 - Land
 - Strong tax base

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - Adult education
 - First Steps: 0-4 age children, book program, childcare, 4-year-olds, home visits, parent involvement
 - Partnerships: people, shadowing, early career
 - Religious faith
 - Leaders who listen
 - Coordinating council – strong and show up
 - Efforts to slow teen pregnancies
 - High technology
 - Job One Stops

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
 - Volunteer in schools

- Get involved with own children, friends children – don't wait for the teacher to call
- Want to hear more from educators and schools
- What can we do
- Help us to target money
- Provide students with real life experiences
- Convince folks
- Long term gratification
- Greater issues
- Community awareness

Clarendon County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Children deserve same education in every county
 - Better jobs for per capita

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed?
(Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Education begins at birth better prepare children
 - Assistance to parents
 - Better understanding of what motivates children to learning
 - Emphasis on reading to motivate children
 - Utilize retired teachers to mentor and read
 - Quality teachers and counselors – students have needs, talk to
 - Teenage pregnancy prevention
 - More effort

Strengths:

 - Rolling readers

Challenges:

 - Issue “Fear Factor” of getting involved with individual children
 - After school programs for students who need it – transportation
 - Prevent time, sustainability

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - Paxville Zion Baptist Church after school program - grown to 80 students, district now providing funding
 - Working well- the partnership between F.E. DuBose Career Center and Central Carolina Technical College
 - County recreation program
 - HYPE program- grant with city of Summerton

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
 - Celebrate success of children along with significant other
 - Personal contact outreach
 - Mentoring
 - Proper role models to show students

Colleton County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Improve quality of life
 - Belief in educational system
 - Improve perception of school
 - Keeping best and brightest- higher paying facilities, attraction, low wages for jobs
 - As citizens and government need to get standards for wages
 - Sense of belonging
 - Sense of pride
 - Strength can carry belonging and pride outside

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Weight students per poverty factor for funding
 - Large county- transportation issue, need to expand capability
 - Begins with manufacturing growth
 - Show students alternative to four-year college
 - Show students "real life" industry skills- start as early as possible
 - Motivate students to believe, achieve, and succeed
 - Create awareness of the kinds of jobs possible
 - Students that are motivated and have sense of self-worth and pride

Strengths:

 - Curriculum coordinator - full-time reason for success
 - AP results
 - Leadership in school
 - 5 students selected for the Governors School for the Arts and Humanities
 - Strong vocational system
 - Communication enhanced by technology

Challenges:

 - Funding
 - Small middle class that volunteers
 - Education is not valued and treasured
 - Disconnect family/ morality

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - Tutor program
 - After school center- funded by grants
 - Strong arts council offers programs- stage performances, instructional dance, art, ceramic
 - Isiah UMC and United Way after tutorial program

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**

- Get students to see value in volunteering, to give back and see evidence of accomplishment
- Encourage further investment
- Encourage knowledge and skills
- Help parents be better parents for children

Darlington County

1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?

Better job opportunities
Moving people out of poverty cycle
Financial stability
Higher/better quality of life
More involvement in community
Lower crime rate
Attract higher paying jobs
Sense of pride
Continued growth and development individual community and state
Attract higher paying industries
Produces competent workforce which brings more business and improves tax base
Improves overall quality of life
Brings new business and sustains existing business
Retain best and brightest at home

2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)

High expectations for all
Sense of value from total population (ticket to a better life)
Discussion/agreement on core values with being sidetracked by special interests
More parental involvement that is focused on academics and not fundraising
Develop sense of community at the school level that includes parents
Equity in service
Parent involvement
Develop a relationship with families – draw in the inactive families
Create an environment conducive to learning
Establish confidence in schools that they can do the job
Audit current practices to discover obstacles to success
Create community supply closet in each school (concern: creates apathy, sense of ownership)
Transportation for parents and families

Challenges:

Expectation of all stakeholders – educators, parents, and students
Better approach to discipline – a plan
Clear, fair definition of success
A better assessment of what students know
Structure of school day
Better accommodation of parents schedules

Strengths

Teachers
Strong community involvement
Environment
Quality of life

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

Long range district plan for volunteer and community involvement

YMCA

Work force and education task force

Workforce Investment Act

Mentor programs

Darlington County First Steps partnership

Chamber of Commerce

Strong PTA, PTO, SICs ABC's

Partnership needed better health care access

Darlington County Development Board

Communities In Schools

Parent –teacher organizations need to increase participation.

Effective business partnerships – could be expanded with better focus

After school programs

Success-maker lab

Reading and math tutorials

Good teachers teaching well

Teacher forum

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

Volunteer time at schools

Publicize in many forms the programs available in the district

Establish rapport with significant adults in children's lives

Looping

Use churches to communicate

District bulletin board in various agencies – YMCA, Wal-Mart, grocery stores, Johnny's

Truck Stop, Care South, Library, etc.

Share successes

Get PTAs, PTOs together to share

Turn off the television

Let's get people in the homes involved in learning

Support local leadership – draw others together

Better communication of expectations and needs

Dorchester County

1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?

- Attracts business
- Test scores do not indicate what is really going on; yet affect by attracting or turning away
- Drop out rate – industry needs trainable employees
- Vocational training
- If schools fail, then community fails – and vice versa – they go hand in hand
- National honors
- Our children are employable
- Quality of life enables to keep children in schools – early identification and intervention
- Education achievements
- Achievement (variety of measures)
- Increased parental involvement
- Test scores compete nationally
- Workforce for future each generation wanting more

2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)

- Early intervention – get them young
- Emotional support
- Early intervention is key (5 hour vs. 1000 hour reading stat)
- The diverse population – levels of intelligence, motivation, and ability requires different tracks
- Early literacy
- Need the money to keep up with growth
- To learn what are successful schools doing?
- “Buy in” for all our children to improve
- Outreach links
- Technical education – work to change concept and perception

Challenges:

- Resources – volunteer time for children
- Community support
- Seeing extension of home in schools
- Retention
- Class sizes are still too large
- Motivate business and faith communities to get into the process; they have a great stake in the outcome
- Support from higher education
- After school programs
- Tech support

Strengths

- (none listed)

- 3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
- Comprehensive high school
 - Tracks for academic, vocational difference
 - Community schools – school/education has to be made relevant to the community
 - Host
 - Midland Park program
 - Americorps
 - Girls/boys club
 - Business partnerships
 - Sports programs
 - Early intervention programs (special education)
 - 4-year-old programs
- 4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
- Need volunteers
 - Faith based initiatives in schools
 - Neighborhood association
 - First steps program (0-3 years critical – what is community doing to reach those “broken” homes).
 - Parent education
 - Neighborhood based community program
 - Faith community link
 - Grandparent programs
 - Child care
 - Schools a welcome centers
 - Presentations geared to all audiences (involve parents as presenters)
 - Transportation
 - Address safety concerns
 - Communication

Edgefield County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Better trained and skilled workforce

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Educational achievement does not equal 4-year college education – emphasis should be on skilled jobs requiring two-year technical college
 - Attracting and retaining quality teachers – make the profession more attractive to the “best and brightest” with competitive salaries and incentives to teach in areas of poverty
 - Time on task in the classroom by eliminating student discipline problems

Strengths:

 - (none listed)

Challenges:

 - Concern w/ definition of new graduation rate – success of high school can come one to two years later
 - PACT does not provide individual student diagnostic information to teachers that could be used to enhance learning for students
 - Growing Hispanic student population taking all of the low skilled / low wage jobs many residents depend on getting
 - Tremendous issue of high school students not being able to “catch up”
 - Cuts in funding during economic downturn and its affect on student achievement
 - Cultural values – lack of disconnect between parent expectation and knowledge of schools
 - Lack of community programs that support student learning (in process of establishing a recreational program in the county)

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - After-school programs are working well but limited to few school because of funding

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
 - Need for churches to provide homework centers and check student report cards to emphasis importance of school and high expectations

Fairfield County

1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?

- Don't improve, still be where we are now
- Decay of structure of community (youth move out)
- Economic development
- Progress/ Advancement growth
- Seeing value in education

2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)

- Quality teachers-critical (retain and support)
- Attract and retain male teachers
- Offer alternatives for children to be successful- working skills
- Ensuring children have basics
- Everyone needs to have some vision for children-at the top-education
- Church is the only place to reinforce message
- Accountability
- Reinforce the positive with individual students
- Expectations of students- average if okay
- Motivation lacking to move above your situation
- Support for students who are behind- assistance to teachers
- Provide students with information how education pays off
- What is the definition of success for children

Strengths:

- Businesses/education committee with local resources willing to help
- Grants reading and math
- High school that work
- Middle grades that work
- Exams aptitude
- Expanding technology
- Studying internal
- Doing more for children with less resources
- Success makers program- measures academic progress, teaching people to use data
- Individuality
- Role models
- Volunteers and mentors
- Explain to children expectations
- Believe in them

Challenges:

- Community is not present in schools- whether all students can achieve (rally around teachers and students)
- Reduce drop out rates of students in grades 7-9, prior to becoming 17
- Parent involvement needs to increase

- Schools need to reach out too
- Student motivational issues abound
- Break cycle of failure
- Expand family literacy programs
- Victim of own limited successes
- Best and brightest go to college, move to other places
- Bring in outside partners- drug, alcohol, abuse, violence, truancy, etc
- Health issues
- Role of motivation- carrot and stick
- Discipline- use as motivational effort
- Alternative paths for some children
- Look at whole child, not just academic standards and accountability
- Too much concentration on the negative-concentrate on individual student's needs

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

Greenwood County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Leading the state and nation
 - On grade level by 4th grade
 - Significantly improved graduation rate
 - Strong availability of trained workforce

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed?
(Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Testing students using a diagnostic assessment
 - Strengthen early childhood development programs- RESOURCES
 - Half day for 4 year olds to full day (we lost our 4-year-old programs due to state funding cuts)
 - Keep class sizes from rising
 - Flexibility for students in secondary system
 - Inform legislature of what works
 - More assistance from the state
 - Concern about losing federal funds- level hard to reach

Strengths:

 - Northside Middle industry adopted school to continue after school programs
 - Parent income rising
 - School-community relations are supportive
 - Low teacher turnover rate
 - Chamber Teacher Recruitment Event
 - Education Enrichment Foundations Teacher Grant
 - Teachers focused on improved teaching
 - Highly qualified professionals
 - Church summer programs

Challenges:

 - After school programs have been cut
 - Framing issues of successes and challenges to the public

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - Apprenticeship Programs
 - Host mentoring- 3rd grade/ 6th grade
 - Piedmont Tech- partners with work

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
 - (none listed)

Hampton County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Better quality of life for all
 - Economic development to attract and retain higher paying jobs

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Local elected officials focused on education as priority
 - Need to get the good news about schools in the community/county (Kids Corner Radio)
 - Fiscal Autonomy (EOC needs to push for all boards being elected w/ fiscal autonomy)
 - Reading specialist for young people
 - Resources for job training
 - A comprehensive plan to invest in people instead of bricks and mortar

Strengths:

 - (Idea) Use the FACES program to assist teaching students w/a second language
 - Programs in place that support Learning
 - First steps served 100 families and work with local child care centers with training for workers and for parents

Challenges:

 - Manufacturers want cheap labor (don't want to pay for highly educated employees)
 - Underemployment
 - Not everyone has the conviction to go into higher education
 - Scarce recreational activities - problem with access in the rural areas

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - Boy Scouts/ Girl Scouts
 - Gear Up- Jr. High

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
 - Getting parents who aren't working to volunteer in the schools
 - Reach parents with low self-esteem/ lack of knowledge

Horry County

1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?

- Higher High School graduation rates
- Better educated work place
- Enhances opportunities to draw/ attract new business w/ improved employment
- Committee for better employment
- More students attend colleges & universities
- Raises the expectations for the next generation of students
- Keep young adults in the community
- Better schools impact quality of life
- Education is very important- entrusting students to the "system"
- Education achievement is directly related to economic achievement " continual improvement"

2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)

- Expectation of high standards and efficient record keeping creates opportunities for all students to do and be more
- More businesses to participate in high performance partnerships w/ schools
- More community members to serve as tutors & mentors
- Work w/ employers to identify work place skills
- Motivate retirees to serve as tutors & mentors

Strengths:

- Being able to provide money for all programs for all who qualify
- Child Find/ Baby Net
- Emphasis on reading
- Use of literacy model
- Good library programs
- Acceptance of accountability by staff, administration, teachers, and school board
- General commitment to excellence and attaining performance goals
- MAP assessment for planning and communicating student performance to parents
- PLP, P/T Conferences
- GEP Research – based models for testing MAP (4 yr old program)
- Community – coastal tech solid waste
- Service learning
- Merit pay
- Stable funding

Challenges:

- Increasing parental involvement, depending upon definition
- Families and communities that do not see education as a priority
- Qualified staff and administration recruitment and retention
- Growing population (80% of homes don't have children in school)
- Transients

- Hispanics/ ESOL
- Growing student population (1000 in 2003)
- Declining per capita income
- Transience rate – large turnover in students
- Relationship between socioeconomic levels and education levels – programs to address this
- Varied socioeconomics - farming vs. business

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

- Partnerships & Community Support
- Volunteer programs
- Mentoring programs
- Internships
- Business partnerships – both as sponsors and as employees tutoring & mentoring
- Personalized learning conferences
- PTA/ PTO/ PTSO/ Booster Clubs
- Early childhood intervention programs
- Community agencies v organization & churches
- Educational access channel
- Horry & Georgetown county education Partnerships – Hub STW

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- Lobby our legislators to provide adequate funding
- Increase communication between schools, homes, and community
- Provide a secure environment
- Encourage parents to provide an environment in the home that supports student achievement
- Employees could review applicant's records (to include attendance, grades) as part of the interview
- Become involved at ALL LEVELS

Jasper County

1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?

- Economic growth
- Removal of negative stigma
- Higher quality of life
- Job attainment, retention, advancement
- More community involvement/ service
- Higher expectations of high school graduates
- More students prepared for higher educational attainment/ higher powered jobs

2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)

- Better jobs
- Better quality of life
- Higher self esteem
- Higher expectations
- Quality teachers and administrators- incentives
- Need to improve diversity
- Parental/ community involvement in the educational process

Strengths:

- Faith community involvement
- Involvement of Cornerstone Foundation to establish activities for students
- Civic organizations
- Sun City Volunteers
- There is some business support

Challenges:

- No incentives for students to achieve
- Low expectations- expected to fail
- How people perceive children
- Children need positive role models to view
- Latch key children parents working come home late- not available to reap benefits of adult education
- Transportation
- Lack of resources
- Public library hours not conducive to support branches- Bookmobile
- High illiteracy rates
- Lack of partnership/ collaborations
- Attracting highly qualified teachers- affordable housing, transportation, relocation expenses, technical assistance/ incentives/ continued support, recreational/ cultural activities
- Pay scale- LOW/ more competitive
- More recreational/cultural activities for children
- Negative media coverage- no positive support

- 3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
- High school and middle schools have after school programs – need sites in local communities
 - Bonus package to recruit- but not enough
 - Market the county – package the high points
 - Sun City volunteers
 - Increase test scores
 - Aligning standards, partnership with USC, Beaufort
 - Comprehensive school reform
 - Technical assistance money utilize differently- keep from going up a down when leave
 - Took first steps money and started 3-4 year old Spanish children
 - USCB partnership
 - Strong ties with churches
- 4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
- Education needs to start in the homes – parent training
 - Parent expectations- homework on time
 - If we could get all churches in Jasper county to work together and focus on learning
 - Need Moses to come and get 11th graders to churches to direct students

Kershaw County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Employability- 41 years employment skills
 - Economic-growth and development
 - Success breeds success
 - Attract people to live in the county, an example - Elgin
 - Good schools
 - Quality of life increases
 - Break economic cycles
 - Keep best talent here
 - Growing population
 - Increased wealth and tax base
 - Increased economic development opportunities
 - Community enrichment
 - Healthy community

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - After school programs- academic assistance, tutoring, community life skills for all student scoring below basic
 - Drugs and alcohol abuse prevention programs
 - Align all curriculum standards with in all schools
 - Need to take a few concepts and do them well - focus
 - More parental involvement
 - Athletics and academics balanced
 - Better financial wealth budget
 - More community recognition of the value of education and the potential of all children
 - More career guidance so that students have a plan in place
 - Activities that invite/ encourage parents to come to the school

Strengths:

 - Fine Arts program- work with behavioral problem students
 - District is evaluating tutor/ academic assistance

Challenges:

 - The per pupil revenue is \$2,500 per year, yet the average is \$400 – need people to not just live but work here as well
 - Transportation issues
 - More descriptive assessment to target intervention/ assistance for individual students (PACT does not provide diagnostic component)
 - Trying to do a lot with a little- curriculum
 - PACT results are not provided to schools in timely manner
 - Family expectations for children and opportunities
 - Addressing percent of population with out education

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - 2nd chance program

- Business/ school partnership
- Volunteerism, PTOs, mentoring, parents
- Mental health involvement
- U.W, CIS, First Step, Fine Arts Center

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- Getting seniors involved
- Fundraising and volunteerism
- Better teaching of discipline to children

Lancaster County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Healthier, happier, hope
 - Easier time for economic development
 - Saves time
 - Less crime, drug, teen pregnancies
 - Democracy works better
 - Breeds a cycle of success
 - Long term savings
 - Opportunity
 - Means everything
 - Think of the reverse – poor education puts drain on the economy and channels money to service type programs instead of enhancement programs
 - Preparation of young people to be successful
 - High school graduates ready to enter workforce or higher education
 - Better education adds value to each child

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Elevate the floor and level the opportunity for all
 - More college-education (cycle)
 - More role models
 - Stabilize funding for all levels
 - Strategies for different students groups in the “middle”
 - Increase computer technical education
 - Give people the ability to adapt easier to change – closing of mills and move to higher skills jobs
 - Additional funding to attract quality teachers
 - Parent education needed– pair students w/parents in the classroom so both can see the value of education

Strengths:

 - Community works together
 - Business partnerships/foundations
 - After school
 - CIS
 - Good relations
 - First steps
 - Parents for public schools
 - College campuses
 - School board
 - Small project (sororities, etc can we link together?)
 - Interagency collaboration
 - Arts!
 - Recreation department
 - Facilities
 - An ethic to care for all children

Challenges:

- Funding for smaller class sizes
- Technology
- Facilities
- Copier paper
- The value of education is different among different communities. If you cook hamburgers at McDonalds, your value will be different than a doctor's, lawyers etc
- Motivation to achieve – model success – reason to succeed
- Quality of standards questioned – no need to compare nationally
- Requiring testing for non-English speaking and special needs students – need assistance
- There are support programs in the community but they are not reaching the students who need them the most - need a graph to show interrelationships among services for children in the community and understand the gaps

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

- Supportive community programs – foundations, civic organizations, business
- School board puts children first
- SCHOLARS program – home-school connection program
- Quality superintendent
- PTAs, PTOs, SICs
- Mentors
- Church support
- USC-Lancaster
- After school programs

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- Need to understand and embrace cultural changes and differences in our communities
- Parents need to see that no knowledge and skills = no jobs
- Schools need to better understand family lives and vice versa – working parents and the time they have to give to schools and their home situations
- Tactical – find the gaps, identify the fill (fierce grandmothers)
- Move all elected officials to support achievement
- Provide leadership, time, talent, treasure
- Move voters to rally behind cause for public education
- Become advocates for public education
- See education as cradle to grave process

Laurens County

1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?

- New jobs and business
- Quality of life
- Opportunities
- Choices
- Industrial development
- "Blue chip industry"
- Real estate cycle
- Business- having well-rounded productive citizens with leadership qualities
- Parents- keeping their educated children in Laurens County
- Educators- having the entire community understand the importance of education and supporting
- Jobs- better paying
- Higher standard of living
- Prosperity
- Lower crime rate
- Attract and keep college graduates
- Parental involvement

2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)

- Fully fund education
- Decrease the "many masters" educators must serve (SDE, EOC, NCLB etc.)
- Emphasis on reading
- Focus on early childhood education
- Full time pre-K programs for all students
- Facilities
- Teachers
- Funding
- Equal emphasis and increased awareness of technical opportunities
- Parenting training
- More summer programs
- More trained student involvement
- Work Together (businesses, educators, legislators) - it doesn't work when only teachers feel the need to be more accountable for their actions in the classrooms
- More parental involvement
- Support for educators
- Parental accountability
- More parent educational opportunities

Strengths:

- Hometown feel

Challenges:

- Transportation

- Need to see the value
- Must see the need
- Believe
- Wheel of misfortune
- The desire
- Need to celebrate our success
- We have a history of not needing an education- "Mill Village Mentality"
- Family and economic support- health insurance

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

- Mentors
- Teacher Cadet
- All day opportunities- LINKS
- Parenting programs
- First Steps
- CHAMPS/ CIS
- Business partners
- Sheriff Department (SRO's) and DARE
- STW program
- Career day/ Ed Op
- ATEC programs
- Civic organizations
- YMCA
- County to recruit services- i.e Sylvan Learning Centers
- "Reading Camp"

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- Provide transportation for parents to attend meetings
- Be advocates for higher expectations and learning

Lee County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**

- Better quality of life
- Lower crime rate
- Increase in property value
- Growth in population
- Economic development
- Attract industry
- High expectations and support for young people
- Caring/Nurturing community

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**

- More support for high school students
- Mentor and job shadowing
- More exposure to exactly what is expected at a job
- How to balance check book- life experiences outside their environment
- Preventive programs to keep children from being expelled from schools- boot camp
- Finding- statewide for schools
- Decreased class sizes (currently too large)
- Promote pregnancy prevention
- Parental involvement
- Churches and communities working with parents to help them help their children
- Make schools parent friendly
- Publicize the good news
- Need more people to participate in Adult Education
- Parents need to have high expectations instilled in their children
- Parents have barriers (discipline)
- Everyone has to have expectations that all children can achieve
- Family home-life has changed
- Parent training/ Accountability
- Making schools encourage and interact
- Head start initiative to get fathers more involved
- Don't focus on negative
- Information to parents
- Home economics that teach living and parenting skills
- Retired teachers read in schools
- Partnering with Mental Health to work with students
- Learn from success

Strengths:

- Lee County State Park
- Increasing number of students with high SAT scores
- Character Education- students help community pick-up which allows students to use the idea to come up with ideas for county to address litter

- Teachers volunteering for after school tutoring
- Recognize KIWANIS and National Council of N.W. 14th Ribbon-cutting Mary McLeod Bethune
- Recovery Program attendance make-up day
- Science in the campus
- FCA- held luncheon, public-private
- After school care
- Intervention
- Mentoring
- Dennis Intermediate Family Night

Challenges:

- Until the community comes together racially we won't work

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

- School mentors
- Lunch buddies
- Fatherhood initiative program
- Good business partnerships in the community
- KIWANIS club- primary school
- Mental health in school program
- Clemson extension
- Primary prevention

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- (not listed)

Lexington County

1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?

- Expectations and demand
- Synonymous with success
- Influences positive business moves in community
- Promotes growth / development i.e. stable housing market
- Provides a ready work force
- Education is economic development
- Community commitment
- Ability to continue learning
- Number of scholarships earned
- Help community understand changing needs of workforce
- Standard of living/quality of life – reduced cost of law enforcement
- Proficiency

2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)

- To keep up with a diverse working environment
- Promoting tech prep courses
- Early childhood education
- Quality childcare
- Affordable and accessible healthcare
- Soft skills (character education)
- Expert advice to help guide student with education and career guidance
- Business partners to advise on necessary job skills
- Help with summer gap
- Magnet schools for technology
- Create an educational base that is teachable to open minds
- Excite students about learning
- Specific resources to provide pathways
- Early intervention. Educating parents about resources.
- Businesses to recognize different ways to partner with young employees (early dismissal times, flex time to attend teacher-parent conferences)
- Summer opportunities/ year round schools
- Identify strengths of kids and encourage hem to career pathways

Challenges:

- Emphasis on top 10 percent – funds being cut
- Class size
- Parent accountability
- Parenting programs needs a wider reach in the community
- Clusters of study
- Community support
- Celebrating student success.

Strengths

- (not listed)

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

- PTA/SIC
- Programs to work with parents on parenting skills
- Co-op programs
- Job shadowing
- Mentoring
- Good/organized recreational programs
- Programs to prevent drug/alcohol abuse and teen pregnancies
- Use teachers and coaches to mentor students
- Quality healthcare

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- Read, read, read
- Do community work
- Use school students to mentor
- Encourage children to participate in extra curricular activities
- Defined discipline policies at home
- Manners
- Teach study skills
- Keep underachieving students successful
- Emphasize reading after 5th grade
- Promote fundamental/basic health care maintenance
- Keep parents in middle/high schools
- Turn off the television, computer and games
- Eat meals together

Marion County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Jobs
 - Quality of life- culture, pride, family, positive aspect on life, willingness to try different
 - Need to grow together
 - Demonstrate relationship between education and jobs

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Basic work ethic
 - Parent involvement
 - Educate public on needs
 - Raise expectation
 - Money/ creative
 - HOPE- no jobs, why learn
 - Mentor
 - Marion County EOC

Strengths:

 - Habitat college students

Challenges:

 - Church membership diminishing
 - Attitude
 - Out of comfort zone

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - High Performance Partnerships Program

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
 - Campaign for literacy

Marlboro County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**

- The future of the community:
- Benefit w/long term goals includes the elderly fro all citizens
- Better work that is productive and reliable
- Higher per capita income – more disposable income which leads to a higher quality of life
- Stimulate greater capital investments and higher wage scales – greater return to the community in education, socially all facets – pride, community achievement as a whole
- Community – more jobs (more local employment better paying jobs and better quality of life)
- Requires commitment
- Less crime
- Improved healthcare
- Population growth
- Increased tax base
- Greater retention of productive citizens
- Reduced need for support services
- Attract better industry
- Increased adult learning
- More skilled work force
- Better health
- Higher income
- Less crime
- Better quality of life
- Population growth
- Increased tax base
- Marketing advantage
- Pride
- Jobs creation/opportunities
- Community cooperation in problem solving

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**

- Total commitment “collaboration” and support in the community
- Early intervention
- Family involvement
- Home support
- Outreach
- Mentoring programs
- Buddy systems
- Constructive activities for youth
- Community collaboration and focus
- Strategies for closing the achievement gap
- Truth rather than political correctness
- Strategies for reducing the drop out rate

- Increase post secondary education
- Begin dual track in middle grades
- Recruit and retain a teaching force
- Better dialogue between public education and teacher training programs
- Increase access to technology
- Community support for equal funding issues (state support)

Strengths:

- Business partnerships
- After school (tutorial programs)
- Community support for total child
- Competent teachers
- Increase in National Board Certified teachers
- Outreach programs in the faith-based communities
- Adult education program
- Local technical college
- Home visitors (limited #)
- After school programs (limited)
- Business education partnerships
- Adult education
- Individual community efforts (ie churches, medical, ROTC, police, etc.)
- Northeastern Community College presence
- Volunteer programs/people
- Civic clubs, sororities and fraternities

Challenges:

- Infant mortality rate
- Outreach to young mothers and fathers
- Transportation
- Need more information about programs offered
- Increase family values
- Teacher recruitment
- Parent/teacher involvement
- Relationship building
- Constructive facilities and activities
- Breaking the cycle
- Need more certified teachers
- Literacy needs of the parents
- More public recognition of academic achievement
- Communication about what the district offers
- After school programs
- Increased collaboration
- Localized high school programs
- Nurture and educate parents
- Family friendly schools
- Involve citizens w/out children in schools
- Assorted effort to "sell" value of education to all citizens (business, retired community, etc)
- Speakers bureau involving

- Public library in schools
- Technology centers in schools
- Increase public speaking about schools in community
- Adult education programs
- Develop a community resource directory
- Support system for single parents
- Child care opportunities
- Educational programs geared to reduce teenage pregnancies
- Increase crime watch
- Better public relations/communicate the positive
- Educate the entire community about our needs

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

- JROTC
- Children's Defense Fund
- Extra Curricular (sports)
- Arts (Civic Center)
- AP classes and satellite
- CIS
- First Steps
- Head Start
- New Perk Programs
- Developmentally delayed programs
- Marlboro Civic Center/Marlboro County education
- Clemson Extension
- SC State Extension
- Business
- DSS
- CDC
- Faith based tutoring
- Inter agency council programs

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- Volunteers
- Organize
- Participation
- Encourage
- Donations

McCormick County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**

- More jobs
- Higher paying jobs
- Better quality of life
- Better future for county and children
- Wants every child to be proud of being from McCormick

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**

- Positive dialogue between school and community that focuses on where we go from here and keep out negativity and past baggage
- Quit talking about what we can't do
- McCormick wants to be at the top and but must develop the plan and methodology to get there
- Publicize success – emphasize the positive (package and marketing story to community)
- Identification of students with special needs
- Focus on whole child, more going on in child's life than school

Strengths:

- After school programs work well
- Arts center

Challenges:

- Cycle of low expectations
- Build community support for students/schools
- Working hours for parents longer and keeps parents from attending school functions
- Some parents are intimidated by schools/personnel
- Belief in getting there – need vested interest of parents and students
- Need a plan on how to get there, proactive from the bottom up with individual student targets
- Greatest problem is attitude- question
- No community centers – no place for children to go
- Existing issues affecting attitude of residents- resignation of superintendent, closing of John de la Howe- loss of jobs, package story of school to market to legislature.

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**

- Library
- Churches
- Literacy Program
- Lion's Club - sponsors eye tests
- HPP
- Rotary Club – dictionaries
- Mentoring

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- Students need to see success
- Community needs to see success
- Talk economic development

Notes from counties not labeled:

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Productivity and retention of workforce
 - Enhancement of economic development and cultural opportunities
 - Break cycle of poverty
 - Improvement of PACT scores and SAT scores
 - A serious impact on quality of life both positive and negative
 - Impact to economic opportunity must have educated workforce
 - As a school district – positive test scores are important
 - Pride in community
 - Lower unemployment
 - Better homes
 - Lower public assistance programs
 - Educate parents about the importance of a good education; there all children will see the need of a good education to have a good quality of life
 - A higher standard of living creates people who are concerned and involved in their community and for its future. When education is pointed in the right direction, test scores go up and the self-esteem of the community collectively increases.

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Funding for education
 - Parenting workshops
 - Early identification and follow through to identify student needs
 - More diversity
 - More effective early childhood programs
 - More effective extracurricular program
 - Less emphasis on teaching to the test and more emphasis on course curriculum
 - Better engagement of parents (especially fathers)
 - Feeling of ownership of schools and sense of belonging to school community
 - More parental involvement
 - Physical health of students
 - Lack of understanding or work place expectations
 - Balance of physical, social, emotional, cultural and academics exposure
 - More emphasis of work force opportunities
 - Finance budget cuts
 - Highly qualified teachers
 - Student teacher ratios
 - Achievement gap
 - Parents
 - Mentoring – business, teachers into industry and business
 - Adopt a school program that goes both ways
 - Parenting coordinators

- Adequate funding of programs
- More school to work partners
- More community and business involvement
- More parental involvement (parenting education through adult education)
- More mentoring programs

Challenges:

- More resources for growing diverse population (Hispanic and African Americans)
- Chamber of Commerce being on the same page
- Rural schools have no business partners
- Rural poverty
- Economic make-up of county – rural urban and retirement
- Change the cycle of single-parent families and all of the associated problems
- Increase opportunities for good employment
- Pre K-3 program
- Fully funded education programs
- Mentoring and tutoring programs
- Involve churches
- Community partnerships
- Business shadowing needed

Strengths

- Montessori Program
- Faith-based communities have tutorial programs
- Extended days and tutorial days
- Double dose of ELA and Math
- Pace Program
- HVAC
- Partnerships with colleges
- Rotary readers
- Strong leaders in schools
- School district committed to ALL students succeeding
- Some schools have great parent involvement
- Excellent facilities
- Excellent teacher-student ratios
- Head Start
- First Steps
- English as a Second Language
- SAT Camp
- Job Shadowing
- School to work program
- Caring and competent teachers
- FDTC
- Quality and safe facilities
- Transportation
- Food services
- Diversity
- Improved economic development

- Pride sense of accomplishments
- Supportive of education financially
- Less crime
- Quality schools
- Job security in our community
- Qualified work force/educators
- Improved quality of life
- Healthy community all the way around
- Improves future of all
- More responsible citizens
- Strong leaders in schools
- School district committed to all students succeeding
- Some schools have great parent involvement
- Excellent facilities
- Excellent student-teacher ratios
- First Steps and Head Start
- After school programs
- Summer enrichment programs
- Public library
- Technical School
- School to Work
- First Steps offering instructional opportunities for parents
- Baby Net
- Parenting programs parent involvement
- High School 101 – exploration of careers in the county

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

- School-to-work, business partnerships, Montessori school, career programs, character education and full day 4-year-old programs
- Salute to Education
- Choices
- Boys and Girls Club
- Tutoring/Mentoring- Church
- High performance partnerships
- School foundation
- Civic Club Programs
- PTA/PTO
- Homework Centers
- After school and summer school programs
- Mentoring programs/shadowing
- Terrific Kids
- Superstar Math
- Accelerated Reading and Math programs
- Business partnerships
- Junior Achievement programs
- SAT Honor Court
- Faith based program

- School Tools
- Back to school bash
- Junior Leadership
- Junior Scholars
- Rotary Readers
- Shadowing
- After school program
- K-5 enhancement programs
- Lunch buddy program
- Star Lab
- After school retrieval
- SAFE Center
- Community Resource Center
- First Steps
- Class size reduction
- Study skills seminar

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- More parenting programs offered to the community, parenting centers (located in schools and churches)
- Support educators
- Read to and with children
- Parent education
- Volunteer your services in tutoring and mentoring
- Visit the schools
- Turn off the TV (monitor shows and limit hours watched)
- Buy education videos and books
- Support adult literacy
- More business involvement
- Give more financial support
- Use retirees as resources
- Increase parental involvement
- Involve churches
- Increase parenting and volunteer workshops
- Assist parents to know how to help their children's' weaknesses
- Need that "we're all in this together" attitude
- More parent education
- More involvement from business and interfaith communities
- Stronger ties between schools and homes and vice versa
- Participate in schools
- Be willing to tutor
- Neighborhoods could institute designated driver programs to community and school functions
- Ministerial groups and churches need to be more active schools
- Encourage students to set high goals
- Good role models
- Provide recreational activities

- Help with homework
- Churches provide programs to promote academic achievement
- More parents participating in PTSA
- Volunteer readers
- Communicate the benefits of a strong school system (more PR)

More community schooling activities at the school evening programs for parents and students

More community outreach programs tutorial, mentoring, cultural, career paths/shadows technology

More positive events at school

More parental involvement schools need to be more family friendly

Incentives for learning

Positive attitude towards education

Better PR Program/Career planning

Oconee County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - New jobs- hand skills, soft skills
 - Manufacturing decline
 - Adds value to community- families
 - Living here- commute to better jobs
 - Having a job...stay here
 - Successful in society

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed?
(Strengths & Challenges)**
 - We're Average but expect higher with recent improvements
 - Higher percentage of students moving on to higher education and complete sophomore year
 - Break the cycle of low achievement by family
 - After school programs
 - Retention - can you read in 4th grade- if not then you don't move forward
 - Expand boundaries of dreams
 - Job expectations- associate degree, corporate training, life long learning
 - Skills to learn

Strengths:

 - Family oriented
 - Relationships
 - Culture
 - Diversity (industry, medical, Tri-tech, Furman, Clemson, and Anderson College)

Challenges:

 - Growth in government sign of more needs/services
 - Apathy towards middle school
 - Look at scores
 - Local students not getting in to Clemson - 28% out of state
 - Expanding gap between haves and have nots
 - Larger class sizes
 - Budget confusion
 - Tax base- bring industry to the table
 - Name of PACT
 - Teacher assistance

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - (not listed)

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
 - Parents must have a bigger goal
 - Work with churches
 - Parent involvement with the child

Schools must fund a "value-added" for businesses and community
Industry must organize to help schools
Solve/ meet issues at home

Orangeburg County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Where do students who do not go to college go? What do they do? Where do they work?
 - Become an attractive community (less crime, quality education)

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Matter of attention and focus
 - Educate community on need to help all children
 - Change attitude and community goals – focus
 - Quality teachers, leaders, and educators can overcome issues of poverty, difficulty in recruiting - state needs to differentiate salary between districts that are critical needs
 - Establish professional schools to specifically designate work in rural, high poverty schools
 - NCLB and Accountability & Equity law suit will focus spotlight on issues of neglect to poor districts and counties
 - Rep. Hunter questions if Legislature is meeting its obligation and promise for technical assistance
 - Provide equal access

Strengths:

 - Safer schools result of Community of Character program implemented in Orangeburg County

Challenges:

 - Concern with increased class size – 4th grade
 - Reeducate parents on how to maintain level of living and move on
 - Parenting issues - knowledge for better parenting
 - Best and Brightest leaving communities/ State
 - Parents define education achievement by how child does in school
 - Breaking cycle of working poorly
 - Large percent of single parent family income- affects how children see themselves, opportunities of children, exposure to things tested on
 - Need lucrative incentives to recruit quality teachers for long periods of time
 - Digital divide

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - Character education program countywide with support from private sector

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
 - (not listed)

Pickens County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Jobs in Pickens want to stay here

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Public access to a Web site that provides districts with information and sharing of best practices
 - Quality instruction
 - Sufficient funding is a concern
 - Use retirees as resources
 - Utilize what is working
 - Align curriculum vertically and horizontally across school grades
 - Teacher morale- REWARDS
 - Using an assessment for teachers to help with individual students

Strengths:

 - Scenic environment
 - Close university
 - Quality of life
 - Family value
 - Work ethic
 - Quality of schools
 - Teachers are home grown

Challenges:

 - Bedroom community for Greenville – keep parents on the road early in the morning and late in the evening and diminishes tax base for support
 - Aging population
 - Cycle of low expectations (my father dropped out so I can too)
 - Infrastructure not in place to recruit major industries
 - Concerned with increasing number of students on the bottom
 - Class sizes larger

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - (not listed)

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
 - (not listed)

Saluda County

1. What does educational achievement mean to our community?

- Sense of pride
- Meets needs of various population
- Survival
- Quality of life
- Attract industry – jobs – retain
- For students to improve test scores

2. What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)

- Show the correlation of need for higher knowledge for jobs of today (example, farming is now high tech agriculture)
- To see improvement in basic skills

Strengths:

- Partnership with DHEC and Health Occupations
- Balanced literacy K-8 (Reading Recovery)
- 3-8 Math Assessment grouped according to performance provided instruction
- Math Academy
- Professional Development aligned with standards
- Teacher common Planning Period by grade level
- Guidance exposure to students- Careers/ Goals
- Requiring parents to attend 4 year old program before child is admitted
- Provide parents with resources
- Parent-community people volunteer in schools – read with children, one on one help with schoolwork, supply/ book clerk
- Good teachers and administrators
- Facilities
- Supportive board and businesses

Challenges:

- No opportunities for successful students in the community (role models, business opportunities)
- Support and teach higher performance and students without language and w/out parental support
- Communication gap between school and community, teachers and students, parents and school
- Concern for effectiveness of Teacher Specialists
- Saluda Primary 20% Hispanic Student Population – total enrolled: 400
- One on one relationship with teacher and student based on ability
- Parents without knowledge to help child with schoolwork – reaching to parents and language barrier
- Class size reduction in early grades is being threatened
- Opportunities
- Facilities
- Equal funding, state and local
- Industry
- Networking throughout county and agencies

- On-going diversity training
- Diverse teaching training
- Parent support
- Educational level of parents
- Economic factors
- Growing Hispanic population

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

- Sports
- Arts
- Volunteers
- Mentors
- Community-in-school Program
- Tutoring program
- Career Day
- School-to-work
- Public Library
- Churches
- Flower and Garden
- Support Agencies

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- Monitor and limit television
- Volunteer
- Mentors
- Organize after school programs and recreation
- Caring and supportive
- Stop being judgmental
- Have high expectations
- Teach discipline and respect for others at home

Sumter County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Better ability to hire locally for industries
 - Better quality of life
 - Ability to attract higher wage business and industry

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed? (Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Fully fund education – determine the cost for goal of being in the top half of states nationally. The standard (goal) was set without determining the cost to get there.
 - State needs to fund its mandates and quit shifting the burden to mainting programs in school districts to local governments
 - Comprehensive plan (Sumter Education Commission) to review and monitor progress of student achievement improvement
 - Redirect focus of all students attending a 4-year college to technical training and career planning.

Strengths:

 - Community is engaged in Vision process and has outlined goals and established an independent, business led commission on education for the two school districts

Challenges:

 - Funding
 - Opportunities for children in low socioeconomic areas

3. **What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?**
 - (not listed)

4. **What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?**
 - (not listed)

Union County

1. **What does educational achievement mean to our community?**
 - Helping all children reach their potential
 - Economic / quality of life
 - Economic Success
 - Attracting businesses
 - Retaining businesses
 - Increase in home sales
 - Increase in pride in community
 - Competency in work force
 - Better able to react to outside world
 - Accountability
 - Increased family values

2. **What is needed in our community so that ALL students can succeed?
(Strengths & Challenges)**
 - Expansion of the arts- whole child
 - Technology- science
 - Bring neighborhoods into the school
 - Accommodating learning styles of all children
 - Literacy courses for parents
 -

Strengths:

 - Teachers
 - Administrators
 - Community spirit
 - Location
 - Maintenance staff
 - Common values
 - Desire to improve
 - Care for their children
 - Parenting programs
 - Early literacy for pre-school
 - Motivational strategies
 - Best practices clearing house
 - Multi-cultural day
 - Neighborhood pride

Challenges:

 - How others perceive our community
 - Buildings
 - Low aspirations
 - Minimal arts
 - Parent involvement
 - Narrow horizons
 - Trust
 - Equitable Funding
 - Volunteerism

- Social and mental development

3. What programs, partnerships etc. work well in your community to support all students succeeding?

- After school tech programs
- YMCA
- Carnegie library/ Dolly Parton
- Hospital/ career tech
- Tutoring
- Business partnerships
- Civic clubs
- Foundations
- One stop centers
- Scholarships
- Intergenerational tutoring
- Academic booster clubs

4. What can we do in our homes and neighborhoods to strengthen our schools?

- Teach children right from wrong
- Turn off the TV
- Read to them
- Good Neighbors
- Ownership
- Family literacy programs
- Home visits
- Mentoring