

Education

Greenville County Schools

The Greenville County Schools homepage provides five goals for the school system (www.greenville.k12.sc.us/district/admin/stats/measures.asp):

1. Raise the academic challenge and performance of each student.
2. Ensure quality personnel in all positions.
3. Provide a school environment supportive of learning.
4. Effectively manage and further develop necessary financial resources.
5. Improve public understanding and support of public schools.

The Greenville County school system is the 62nd largest in the nation and serves “most of Greenville County and parts of Spartanburg and Laurens counties” (www.greenville.k12.sc.us). Within the public school system, there are 48 elementary schools, 17 middle schools, 14 high schools, 4 career technology schools, 5 child development schools, and 7 special centers. The 7 special centers are: the Fine Arts Center, Gifted Center, Roper Mountain Science Center, Teen Parent, West Greenville School, Washington Center, and Lifelong Learning (Adult Education). There are also 12 magnet schools within select schools.

School report cards are issued by the State Department of Education each year for schools and school districts. In 2004, 62% of schools in the Greenville County School district received “an Absolute Rating of Excellent or Good” (www.greenville.k12.sc.us). The following table shows the percentage of schools that received high ratings over the past three years. From 2002 to 2004, the ratings have remained relatively constant in the 60-percentile range.

Table 13: Greenville County Schools Rated Excellent or Good

Year	Percent Excellent/Good
2004	62.0
2003	63.0
2002	61.0

Source: Greenville County Schools Online, 2005
(<http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/district/admin/stats/measures.asp>)

Testing

The Cognitive Skills Assessment Battery (CSAB) measures first-grade readiness in South Carolina. It is administered to all public school students at the beginning of their first grade school year. CSAB scores for students in

the Greenville District increased by 2% between 1999 and 2000 and again from 2000 to 2001. Table 14 shows these increases for both the Greenville School District and South Carolina.

Table 14: CSAB Scores

	1999 CSAB Scores		2000 CSAB Scores		2001 CSAB Scores	
	Greenville District	SC	Greenville District	SC	Greenville District	SC
# Tested	4,946	52,611	4,868	50,682	4,708	49,641
% Ready for First Grade	84.6	83.9	86.4	85.2	88.0	86.4

Source: Greenville County Schools Online, 2005
 (<http://www.myschools.com/reports/>)

Another test that is administered statewide is the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests (PACT). This test “measures each student’s grade-level knowledge in language arts [ELA] and mathematics” (www.greenville.k12.sc.us). The following table shows the percentage of students scoring proficient or advanced in Greenville County and South Carolina.

Table 15: Percentage of Students Scoring Proficient or Advanced on PACT

Greenville County			South Carolina		
Grade	ELA	Math	Grade	ELA	Math
3	60.3	35.0	3	56.0	30.0
4	41.0	38.5	4	38.4	35.7
5	27.8	33.7	5	27.1	32.3
6	30.4	37.0	6	28.6	38.2
7	28.4	33.3	7	25.2	31.6
8	28.9	20.9	8	26.3	22.3

Source: Greenville County Schools Online, 2005
 (<http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/district/admin/stats/measures.asp>)

Greenville County high school students are required to take the High School Exit Exam. In 2004, “77.1 percent of 10th grade students taking the High School Exit Exam passed both the English/Language Arts and Math sections on the first attempt” (www.greenville.k12.sc.us). Advanced placement classes also allow students to take a college level course in high school. Upon completion of the course the students take an advanced placement exam, and if they receive a score from 3 to 5, they can receive college credit for that course their freshman year of college. In 2004, 2,148 students were tested and 3,777 exams were taken (students are allowed to take more than one AP course at a time, therefore often taking more than one placement exam). Forty-eight percent of the AP exams taken received a score between 3 and 5, resulting in college credit. The following table shows the advanced placement

test history over the past three years. The number of exams scoring between 3 and 5 grew significantly from 2002 to 2003.

Table 16: Advance Placement Test History

Year	# Scoring Between 3 and 5	% Earning College Credit
2004	1,815	48.0
2003	1,803	52.5
2002	1,581	55.0

Source: Greenville County Schools Online, 2005
<http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/district/admin/stats/measures.asp>

In Greenville County schools, the Scholastic Assessment Test (SAT) average “has increased 12 points over the past five years, two points more than the national increase” (www.greenville.k12.sc.us). The following table shows the county, state, and national SAT average scores over the past three years. Greenville County schools have a higher average score than the state of South Carolina, but lower than the national average.

Table 17: Average SAT Scores

Year	Greenville	South Carolina	Nation
2004	1,005	986	1,026
2003	1,011	989	1,026
2002	1,004	981	1,020

Source: Greenville County Schools Online, 2005
<http://www.greenville.k12.sc.us/district/admin/stats/measures.asp>

Funding

Greenville County spends an average of \$6,362 per pupil, while the state average is \$7,405. In the state of South Carolina, there are 86 total school districts, and Greenville County is ranked 80th on spending per pupil (www.greenville.k12.sc.us).

Dropout Rates

In the 1999-2000 school year, the total enrollment for grades 9 through 12 in Greenville County was 16,417. That same year, grades 9 through 12 experienced a dropout rate of 2.3%. Statewide, there was a total of 180,471 students enrolled in grades 9 through 12 in 1999-2000, with a dropout rate of 3.2%. Further, in the 2000-2001 school year, the dropout rate increased only slightly to 3.3%, and in the 2001-2002 school year, the rate remained the same (https://www.myschools.com/offices/ssys/alternative_education/dropout/Statedropoutreport2001-2002.pdf). As of March 14, 2004 the attendance rate was 97.5%, and the dropout rate was 2.6% (www.greenville.k12.sc.us).

Table 18: Dropout Rates in Greenville County and South Carolina

1999-2000	Enrollment	Dropouts (#)	Dropouts (%)
Greenville County	16,417	384	2.3
South Carolina	180,471	5,707	3.2

Source: SC Department of Education, "Report on Student Dropout and Completion Rates," 1999-2000

(http://www.myschools.com/offices/ssys/alternative_education/dropout/Dropoutdata1.doc)

Literacy and Education Levels in South Carolina

South Carolina has one of the highest high school dropout rates in the country. In addition, South Carolina has one of the lowest literacy rates. The United Way Association of South Carolina provides the following facts:

- The single most significant indicator of a child's success in school is the education level of the mother. In 2002, 11,000 children were born to mothers with less than a high school diploma.
- One third of South Carolina's working population lacks a high school diploma (U.S. Census).
- A high school dropout earns an average of \$12,440 a year compared to a person with a high school diploma who earns an average of \$22,350 a year.
- Sixty-two percent of the individuals receiving services from DSS (Department of Social Services) have not completed high school.
- Seventy-five percent of the South Carolina inmate population is illiterate.
- Our growing Hispanic workforce is expected to reach 275,000 by 2008: at least 70% are illiterate in their own language.
- Budgets for adult education and literacy programs have been dramatically decreased by 29% (over \$4 million) in the last three state budgets. The ever-increasing need to serve the undereducated population cannot be effectively met with a shrinking budget.

Over 600,000 residents of South Carolina (15% of the total population) do "not have a high school diploma and lack the literacy or technical skills they need to find and hold a good job" (United Way Association of SC, "Improving Adult Literacy in South Carolina Doesn't Cost—It Pays," <http://www.uwasc.org/policyAdultLit.php>). According to the National Adult Literacy Survey, about "13-14% of young adults in South Carolina are in the lowest of five literacy levels and almost half (44-48%) are in the lowest two levels" (http://www.scyoungadults.org/sc_educ.html#basic). These rates are alarming because as Carolina Careers reports, "85% of the jobs in South Carolina require education and skills beyond a high school diploma"

(<http://www.carolinacareers.org/adobe/FAQ.pdf>). Another alarming fact, according to the National Assessment for Adult Literacy, is that “25% of South Carolinians have difficulty reading a map or completing a simple job application” (<http://www.uwasc.org/policyAdultLit.php>).

Graduates’ Future Plans

Among Greenville County’s 3,238 graduates in Spring 2000, 74.4% were planning to enter post-secondary education in Fall 2000 and 20.4% were planning to enter gainful employment. Among the 33,918 graduates statewide in Spring 2000, 64.1% were entering post-secondary education in Fall 2000 and 24.7% were entering gainful employment. These educational attainment rates are described in Table 19, with Greenville County having a higher percentage entering post-secondary education than South Carolina as a whole.

Table 19: Graduates in Greenville County and South Carolina

Spring 2000	# of Graduates	Entering Post-Secondary Education (%)	Entering Gainful Employment (%)
Greenville County	3,238	74.4	20.4
South Carolina	33,918	64.1	24.7

Source: SC Department of Education, "Summary of All 1999-2000 SC High School Completers Enrolled in 2000-01 College Freshman Classes in SC and Other States"

Educational Attainment

Greenville County has a relatively well-educated population. Approximately 26% of the population, according to the 2000 Census, reported having graduated from high school, with 33% reporting earning an Associates degree or higher. Twenty percent reported not having completed high school. The percent of Greenville County’s population that has completed high school and/or a higher degree is 79.5%, just below the national percent of 80.4. The state of South Carolina has a slightly lower amount of 76.3%. According to the 2000 Census, 18% of the county received a bachelor’s degree. This number has grown 4.2% from 1990 (13.9%) and is higher than the state of South Carolina (13.5%) and the U. S. (15.5%). Greenville County stands out when compared to the United States and South Carolina for percent of population with a bachelor’s degree or higher. Greenville County leads with 26.2%, the United States at 24.4%, and South Carolina at 20.4%.

**Table 20: Educational Attainment in 2000 for
Population Age 25 and Over**

	Greenville County		South Carolina		United States	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Less Than 9th Grade	17,336	6.9	215,776	8.3	13,755,477	7.5
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	34,076	13.6	398,503	15.4	21,960,148	12.1
High School Graduate	65,815	26.3	778,054	30.0	52,168,981	28.6
Some College, No Degree	49,277	19.7	500,194	19.3	38,351,595	21.0
Associate Degree	18,103	7.2	173,428	6.7	11,512,833	6.3
Bachelor's Degree	45,245	18.1	351,526	13.5	28,317,792	15.5
Graduate or Professional Degree	20,406	8.2	178,529	6.9	16,144,813	8.9

Source: SC Community Profiles, 2000/U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000
(<http://www.sccommunityprofiles.org/attainment.asp?COUNTYID=23>)

Educational Attainment by Race/Ethnicity

While an increasing amount of the population is well-educated, educational attainment varies greatly by racial/ethnic background. For instance, while only 17.4% of the white residents of Greenville County over the age of 25 do not have a high school diploma, 33.6% of African American Greenville County residents have not successfully completed high school. The percentage is even higher for Hispanics, with 47% of Hispanic Greenville County residents without a high school diploma, and 29% with less than a 9th grade education. The following three tables suggest a strong need for literacy or other educational programs for minority populations (Greenville Redevelopment Authority, Consolidated Plan).

**Table 21: Educational Attainment in 2000 for
White Population Age 25 and Over**

	Greenville County		South Carolina		United States	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Population Age 25+	200,412	100.0	1,844,670	100.0	143,085,659	100.0
Less Than 9th Grade	11,683	5.8	120,006	6.5	8,439,716	5.9
9th-12th Grade, No Diploma	23,177	11.6	233,156	12.6	15,058,521	10.5
High School Graduate	51,132	25.5	536,947	29.1	42,216,532	29.5
Some College, No Degree	40,383	20.1	373,959	20.3	30,763,729	21.5
Associate Degree	15,194	7.6	133,597	7.2	9,315,598	6.5
Bachelor's Degree	40,549	20.2	296,500	16.1	23,734,685	16.6
Graduate or Professional Degree	18,294	9.1	150,505	8.2	13,556,878	9.5

Source: SC Community Profiles, 2000/U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000
(http://www.sccommunityprofiles.org/edatt_race.asp?COUNTYID=23)

**Table 22: Educational Attainment in 2000 for
African American Population Age 25 and Over**

	Greenville County		South Carolina		United States	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Population Age 25+	41,227	100.0	681,366	100.0	19,858,095	100.0
Less Than 9th Grade	4,188	10.2	84,690	12.4	1,575,555	7.9
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	9,664	23.4	154,354	22.7	3,932,139	19.8
High School Graduate	12,900	31.3	225,509	33.1	5,909,783	29.8
Some College, No Degree	7,455	18.1	114,274	16.8	4,464,348	22.5
Associate Degree	2,464	6.0	35,320	5.2	1,145,001	5.8
Bachelor's Degree	3,270	7.9	45,894	6.7	1,877,471	9.5
Graduate or Professional Degree	1,286	3.1	21,325	3.1	953,798	4.8

Source: SC Community Profiles, 2000/U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000
(http://www.sccommunityprofiles.org/edatt_race.asp?COUNTYID=23)

**Table 23: Educational Attainment in 2000 for
Other Race Population Age 25 and Over**

	Greenville County		South Carolina		United States	
	#	%	#	%	#	%
Population Age 25+	8,619	100.0	69,974	100.0	19,267,885	100.0
Less Than 9th Grade	1,465	17.0	11,080	15.8	3,740,206	19.4
9th to 12th Grade, No Diploma	1,235	14.3	10,993	15.7	2,969,488	15.4
High School Graduate	1,783	20.7	15,598	22.3	4,042,666	21.0
Some College, No Degree	1,439	16.7	11,961	17.1	3,123,518	16.2
Associate Degree	445	5.2	4,511	6.4	1,052,234	5.5
Bachelor's Degree	1,426	16.5	9,132	13.1	2,705,636	14.0
Graduate or Professional Degree	826	9.6	6,699	9.6	1,634,137	8.5

Source: SC Community Profiles, 2000/U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000
(http://www.sccommunityprofiles.org/edatt_race.asp?COUNTYID=23)

Educational Attainment by Age

The population 65 years and over typically has a lower level of educational attainment than the baby boomer or young adult population. Of the population aged 65 and older in South Carolina, 42.3% had less than a high school education in 2000, compared with 22.6% of the 45 to 64 year-old population and 17% of the 35 to 44 year-old population. In Greenville County, 39.6% of the population 65 and older had less than a high school education, compared with 18.9% of the 45 to 64 year-old population and 13.9% of the 35 to 44 year-old population.

In South Carolina, 15.5% of the population 65 and older had at least a bachelor's degree in 2000, compared with 21.2% of the 45 to 64 year-old population and 21.1% of the 35 to 44 year-old population. In Greenville County, 15.8% of the 65 and older population had at least a bachelor's degree in 2000, compared with 26.7% of the 45 to 64 year-old population and 29.4% of the 35 to 44 year-old population.