



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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At the state level, "The percentage of public school students meeting or exceeding state standards increased in a majority of subjects in four of six grades tested on the 2010 administration of South Carolina's Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (PASS)." Overall, Aiken County Public School students performed at the same level as other students in South Carolina in ELA and writing, or to some extent above, while performing slightly lower in the other subject areas.

South Carolina and federal laws require end-of-the-year accountability tests for grades 3-8 that are based on state academic standards. PASS results include scores in five subject areas: writing, English language arts (reading and research), mathematics, science and social studies.

PASS has three scoring levels:

- Exemplary – The student demonstrated exemplary performance in meeting the grade level standard.
- Met – The student met the grade-level standard.
- Not met – The student did not meet the grade-level standard.

During the 2010 administration of PASS students in Aiken County increased their level of performance at the exemplary level in ELA and science; however, there was a decrease in the percentage of students not meeting standard in writing. In addition, there was an increase in the percentage of African Americans and students on Free and Reduced lunch performing at the exemplary level in four out of the five subject areas assessed. In ELA, there was a slight decrease in the achievement gap.

Science and social studies continue to be a problematic area for the district. In addition, math scores dipped this year compared to last year.

Summary of Aiken County Results for "all students":

- Writing – The writing test for each grade level included multiple-choice questions and one extended-response (essay) item. 73% of students Met or showed Exemplary performance in meeting the grade-level standard.
- ELA (reading and research) – The ELA test contained multiple-choice questions based on reading passages. 75% of students Met or showed Exemplary performance in meeting the grade-level standard.
- Math – The mathematics test contained only multiple-choice items. 68% of students Met or showed Exemplary performance in meeting the grade-level standard.

- Science – The science test contained only multiple-choice items. 65% of students Met or showed Exemplary performance in meeting the grade-level standard.
- Social Studies – This test also contained only multiple-choice questions. 66% of students Met or showed Exemplary performance in meeting the grade-level standard.

"We are encouraged by our ELA and writing results as they compare to state results; however, the decrease in achievement in other areas has us even more determined to focus on methods that will not only bring those areas up to state standards, but to surpass those standards. The decrease in the achievement gap in ELA was a result we had anticipated due to the diligent commitment to do so," states District Superintendent, Dr. Elizabeth Everitt.

For 2010-11 South Carolina test score release dates, please visit our website at [www.aiken.k12.sc.us](http://www.aiken.k12.sc.us) and click on *Testing Scores Release Dates* listed under Quick Links.

	2009 Writing	2010 Writing		2009 ELA	2010 ELA		2009 Math	2010 Math		2009 Science	2010 Science		2009 SS	2010 SS	
<b>All Students</b>															
Not Met	29	27	-2	23.7	25	1.3	27.4	32	5	32.7	35	2.3	32	34	2
Met	39	40	1	39.9	35	-5	44.8	41	-4	51.4	47	-4.4	45.4	43	-2.4
Exemp	32	32	0	36.4	39	2.6	27.8	26.6	-1	15.9	17	1.1	22.6	22	-0.6
<b>African American</b>															
Not Met	40.1	37.7	-2	35.3	36.7	1.4	41	45.3	4	49.5	52.8	3.3	45.3	47.5	2.2
Met	41.6	42.8	1.2	45	40.3	-5	46.4	41	-5	45.3	41.4	-3.9	44	42.3	-1.7
Exemp	18.3	19.5	1.2	19.7	23	3.3	12.5	13.7	1	5.2	5.8	0.6	10.7	10.2	-0.5
<b>Free/Reduced</b>															
Not Met	39.5	36.4	-3	32.7	33.4	0.7	37.2	41.7	5	44.2	46.8	2.6	42.2	44.6	2.4
Met	39.9	42.3	2.4	42.8	38.9	-4	46.4	41.5	-5	48.3	44.2	-4.1	45.5	42.9	-2.6
Exemp	20.5	21.3	0.8	24.6	27.7	3.1	16.4	16.8	0	7.5	9	1.5	12.3	12.5	0.2