

Public and Private Schools

The Charleston area offers a number of the best performing schools in South Carolina. The region is divided into four public school districts, which support 136 schools and serve more than 92,000 students, or nearly 90% of the school-age population. In addition to charter schools, students can attend one of the region's highly acclaimed magnet schools such as Academic Magnet High School — recently rated as a top ten school in the U.S. by *Newsweek*. Gifted students are also eligible to attend the South Carolina Governor's School for the Arts and Humanities, or the Governor's School for Science and Mathematics, which is ranked among the best academic secondary schools in the nation. About 65 independent schools also serve the three-county Charleston region, educating more than 11,200 students.

Schools in the Charleston region are held to a high level of accountability by the South Carolina Department of Education. The state has adopted a rigorous standards program for all primary and secondary students. Progress is measured each year by the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test, and school-by-school report cards are available by visiting the South Carolina Department of Education. With several schools in the region rated as “excellent” or “good”, parents have a reliable means to choose among the best performing public schools.

Public School District Statistics

	School District			
	Berkeley County	Charleston County	Dorchester County II	Dorchester County IV
Student population	26,544	41,912	18,030	2,274
Number public schools	35	79	16	4
Elementary	20	47	9	2
Middle/Intermediate	9	19	5	1
High School	6	13	2	1
Per pupil expenditures	\$6,687	\$7,948	\$6,294	\$8,429
Professional staff education				
Total number of teachers	1,673	3,205	1,176	174
% of teachers with advanced degrees	55.6%	51.6%	52.2%	58.6%
Pupil/teacher ratio	23 to 1	21 to 1	21 to 1	18 to 1
Average teacher salary	\$41,722	\$41,046	\$40,566	\$41,160
% of graduates entering:				
Post-secondary education	60.9	70	67.4	32.5
Workforce / military / other	39.1	30	32.6	67.5
Drop-out rate as % of enrollment, grades 9-12	5.9	5.0	4.3	1.6
Average SAT scores (2005) (all seniors taking test)				
Total	999	987	1050	998
Math	504	489	526	502
Verbal	495	498	524	496



[Related Websites](#)

For additional information on area public and private schools, visit:

South Carolina Department of Education

<http://ed.sc.gov>

To learn more about special public school initiatives, visit:

www.theeducationfoundation.org

[Data Source](#)

Compiled by the Center for Business Research at the Charleston Metro Chamber of Commerce, 2007