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# Three-quarters of Students Pass High School Exit Exam On First Attempt

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CHARLESTON – Reflecting a statewide trend, the percentage of Charleston County School District (CCSD) students passing the high school exit exam on the first attempt decreased slightly in the 2008-2009 academic year. The percentage of CCSD students scoring at the proficient or advanced level was higher in both English/Language Arts (ELA) and Math than the state average.

South Carolina public high school students initially take the High School Assessment Program (HSAP) test during the second year of high school. The HSAP serves as the state's high school exit exam as well as a federally-mandated testing program to measure the progress of high schools. South Carolina public high school students must pass the ELA and Math sections in order to meet the requirements for a diploma. Students who do not pass the HSAP on their first attempts have additional opportunities to retake the tests they did not pass.

"After three straight years of increases on the HSAP, we obviously were hoping for another record year," said Superintendent Dr. Nancy McGinley. "We will continue to closely monitor and respond proactively to how our high school students are doing. The results reinforce the importance of working strategically to achieve the three goals outlined in our vision of *Charleston Achieving Excellence*—to elevate overall achievement, close the achievement gap, and increase the graduation rate."

### Percent Passing Both English/Language Arts and Math

	2007	2008	2009	Difference 2008 - 2009
<b>CCSD</b>	78.8	81.1	75.8	-5.3
<b>South Carolina</b>	77.1	80.8	76.1	-4.7

### Percent Meeting State Standard

	Test	2007	2008	2009	Difference 2008 to 2009
<b>CCSD</b>	English/Language	89.1	88.0	84.6	-3.4
	Arts				
	Math	79.7	83.8	79.4	-4.4
<b>South Carolina</b>	English/Language	88.1	87.7	84.9	-2.8
	Arts				
	Math	79.6	84.6	80.2	-4.4

### Percent Proficient or Above

	Test	2007	2008	2009	Difference 2008 to 2009
<b>CCSD</b>	English/Language	62.7	60.6	53.1	-7.5
	Arts				
	Math	53.5	55.4	51.8	-3.6
<b>South Carolina</b>	English/Language	59.8	59.3	49.9	-9.4
	Arts				
	Math	52.3	56.0	50.9	-5.1

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