



Taylors Elementary

Excellence in Achievement, Actions and Attitudes

Taylors Elementary School

GREENVILLE COUNTY SCHOOLS

"Excellence in Achievement, Actions and Attitudes"

VISION: Our vision is to provide a happy, caring and stimulating environment where children will recognize and achieve their fullest potential, so that they can make their best contribution to society.

MISSION: Excellence in Achievement, Actions, and Attitudes

Annual Report to the Community

Rhonda R. Rhodes, Principal

Mark Pechin, SIC Chairman

Damon Officer, Assistant Principal

Spring 2015

Taylors Elementary School: Excellence in Academics, Actions and Attitudes! Taylors Elementary offers a diverse learning community with teachers who promote student-centered instruction. Our year has focused on defining excellence and committing to creating a school environment where student needs are first. All decisions are based on "what is best for children."

Taylors Elementary School is fully accredited by the *AdvancED Accreditation Commission* and proudly serves approximately 800 students in grades kindergarten through fifth from a wide variety of cultural backgrounds. Our school holds a poverty index of 69.57% (according to the most recent data from the SC State Department of Education). Each member of our professional teaching staff is 'highly qualified' and well trained for the position they hold. Our teachers work diligently to provide learning experiences that engage students in creative, rigorous, standards-based learning experiences that enable them to achieve to their highest potential. In addition to providing a *common core standards-based curriculum* Kindergarten through 5th grade and utilizing research-based *BEST Practices* throughout our instructional program, our staff regularly analyzes student achievement data to make necessary adjustments to our instructional strategies that will support success for every student and meet the unique learning needs of our children.

Raising student achievement is our primary goal. Our Vertical Teams have facilitated conversations and actions among our staff to strive for continuous improvement. We are developing effective data teams to create common assessments and use data to drive instruction. We continue to grow in the area of Balanced Literacy as a means to support and

accelerate every child at Taylors Elementary School. Additionally, we are an Inclusive Strategy School. We strive to identify the strengths and learning needs of all students by offering inclusion-based learning. Inclusion is available for identified special education students whose learning can be maximized and supported in a regular education setting.

The faculty is collaborating to expand its repertoire of strategies for teaching by reading current literature, attending conferences, taking graduate courses, and sharing ideas with colleagues at faculty meetings and in-services. Summer Academy provides one avenue for extensive training where an increasing number of faculty members are also presenters. Teachers are currently participating in Balanced Literacy training. The school is working with a consultant from the Heinemann organization, whose role is to provide training as well as conduct classroom observations and provide immediate feedback to individual teachers.

Each classroom teacher received an iPad for instruction as a start to our school year. TechKnow Tuesdays were designed to enhance instructional technology and led by our district, principal and staff of Taylors Elementary. We currently have three adjunct Google Instructors for our district who are classroom teachers at Taylors. Technology is enhancing our assessments and providing a higher level of engagement for student learning at Taylors.

Quality teacher leadership is nurtured and encouraged at our school. Our design of staff development includes the structure of our Wednesdays. From the transformation of traditional teacher meetings to FBI Meetings, Focus on Better Instruction, teachers lead with best practices and presentations from our professional book study. The second Wednesday allows PLC's to create, design and analyze assessment for student learning. Vertical Teams meet on the third Wednesday for discussion of standards, assessment and our school-wide professional book study. Our Faculty Council and Committees meets on the final Wednesday of each month to guide decision making for our school and serve as an advisory team to our administration.

Our school counseling department has partnered with Greenville Mentoring to provide training to interested mentors and currently paired twelve volunteers to students who benefit from this support. Additionally, our Watch DOGS (Dads of Great Students) program continues to grow and encourage positive male role models to spend a day volunteering in overall school operations for the day. By the end of the year, our goal is to have a mental health counselor placed in our building to provide services to students and families through Greenville County Mental Health.

In a concentrated effort to make "every minute count" at Taylors, we participate in the Universal Breakfast Program, providing a free, healthy and nutritious breakfast free of costs to all students. Additionally, we have formed early morning groups, such as, Walk and Talk for Kindergarten and First Grade, and opened our computer lab for students to enhance their mathematical skills in the First In Math program in grades second through fifth. We have several after school programs for enrichment: art, Chorus, Green Team, Student Council and EPIC (Empowered-Proud-Independent Club). We have also partnered with the Greenville Hospital System and have six trained Girls on the Run (GOTR) Coaches and twenty girls who

have joined the GOTR program. These girls will culminate their participation with a 5K Run in May.

To further promote academic success and parental buy-in, PTA events are curriculum-based. The guidance counselor conducts ITBS meetings with second grade parents to further parental understanding of standardized tests. Past PTA honors include SC PTA Outstanding Unit of the Year, SC PTA Principal of the Year, SC PTA Support Staff of the Year, and SC PTA Enrichment Programs of the Year. The current PTA is eager to regain the recognitions and was honored with one of the highest increases in membership among Greenville County Schools. In addition, School Improvement Council (SIC) takes an active interest in the everyday workings of the school. Parental involvement is encouraged and celebrated with many opportunities to participate in school life.

To strengthen the writing program, each class chooses a "The Write Ingredient," student whose works are selected for display during the month and they are invited to a special tea. As they sip their "tea", munch a snack, and listen to the administration read a story, each child receives a special treat bag. "Writing Celebrations" have brought a whole new perspective to our writing program. Parents enjoy coming to celebrate student writing.

Life Savers, a positive character education program, is overseen by our guidance counselor, is implemented school-wide. Each grade level has a list of required behaviors, consequences for disregarding them, and reinforcements for good citizenship. Dedication to these plans, coupled with strong support from administration, has promoted good citizenship and a climate of mutual respect. We are proud recipients of the 2010 South Carolina Schools of Character Award and 2011 South Carolina Schools of Character Award Honorable Mention. Our ultimate goal for our school counseling program is to become a RAMP School: Recognized ASCA Model Program.

Great things are happening at Taylors Elementary! It is a time of growth and commitment to excellence. We are building on our growth to a 91.3, A, ESEA Rating and striving to meet the challenges of the future. From our school tagline, "Excellence in Academics, Actions and Attitudes" we are defining what excellence is and more importantly, what it takes to attain it.

Student Performance Data Summary

YEAR	ESEA REPORT CARD GRADE	RATING	Student Achievement Award	Closing the Gap Award
2014	A	Good	TBD	NA
2013	B	Good	NA	NA
2012	A	Good	Silver	Silver

PASS <i>(Palmetto Assessment of State Standards)</i>	ELA			Math		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
% Exemplary	50.5	49.4	48.8	37.8	40.7	39.2
% Met	30.9	35.3	32.5	42.6	37.2	38
% Not Met	18.6	15.4	18.7	19.5	22.1	22.8

PASS con't.	Writing			Science			Social Studies		
	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014	2012	2013	2014
% Exemplary	32.1	37.3	48.7	22.4	15.8	21.3	31.8	40.1	35.9
% Met	47.8	41.7	34.8	55.7	58.1	57.8	50.7	43.5	45.9
% Not Met	20.1	21	16.5	21.9	26.1	20.9	17.5	16.4	18.2

MAP Spring 2015 <i>Measures of Academic Progress</i>	<i>Students Meeting or Exceeding Target Goal in</i>		MAP Spring 2015 <i>Measures of Academic Performance</i>	<i>Students Meeting or Exceeding Target Goal in</i>	
	Math			Reading	
Grade 2	47.9%		Grade 2	49.1%	
3	55%		3	53.5%	
4	55.4%		4	50%	
5	61.1%		5	57.7%	

<i>Awards and Honors</i>
Fully accredited by AdvancED Accreditation Commission 2014-19
'A' Rating on ESEA School Report Card - 2014
The PASS scores from 2013-2014 showed that Taylors Elementary students scores improved from 2012-2013. The school received an 86.6/B rating during 2012-2013 and a 91.3/A rating in 2013-14.
AimsWeb scores for the 2014-2015 school year show improvement in all targeted grade levels due to the intensive intervention of the RTI program.
South Carolina Green Steps School
Safe Kids School
PTA OAK Leaf Award – Recognition of Membership
PEP Literacy Grant Recipient

