

**South Carolina Department of Education
CHARTER SCHOOL
2018 ANNUAL REPORT
TEMPLATE**

**Charter School Submission Deadline to
Sponsor: December 31, 2018**

**Sponsor Submission Deadline to SCDE:
January 31, 2019**

School Name: Discovery School

Sponsor: Lancaster County School District

Date of Submission to Sponsor: 12/31/18

I. INTRODUCTION

Pursuant to S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-140(H), the South Carolina Department of Education (SCDE) has developed this annual report template for charter schools to use in reporting to their sponsors. A charter school is required to submit, at least annually to its sponsor, a report that shall include the following, at a minimum:

- (1) the number of students enrolled in the charter school from year to year;
- (2) the success of students in achieving the specific educational goals for which the charter school was established;
- (3) an analysis of achievement gaps among major groupings of students in both proficiency and growth;
- (4) the identity and certification status of the teaching staff;
- (5) the financial performance and sustainability of the sponsor's charter schools; and
- (6) board performance and stewardship including compliance with applicable laws.

The report shall provide all other information as required by the charter school sponsor and the SCDE.

In turn, sponsors are required by law to annually evaluate the following conditions that warrant the nonrenewal or revocation of a school's charter:

- the commission of a material violation of the conditions, standards, or procedures provided for in the charter application;
- failure to make or meet reasonable progress, as defined in the charter application, toward pupil achievement standards as identified in the charter application;
- failure to meet generally accepted standards of fiscal management; and
- violation of any law from which the school was not specifically exempted.

This annual report template is designed to elicit a comprehensive picture of a charter school's recently completed academic year as it relates to the school's performance in those areas impacting charter school accountability: academic achievement, compliance, operations/governance, and financial viability.

II. ANNUAL REPORT SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Annual Report Submission: The annual report shall be due on **December 31** following each full school year in which the charter school is in operation. The board of trustees of a charter school should make the annual report available to the parents or guardians of the students enrolled in the charter school. In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-140 (H), the charter school shall submit an annual report to its sponsor, and the sponsor shall compile the annual reports of all of its charter schools into a single document that must be submitted to the SCDE by January 31. Insofar as the sponsor of a charter school is the charter school's local education agency (LEA), the charter school is advised to submit its annual report to the sponsor's superintendent.

Submission Requirements:

Charter School: Please confirm with the sponsor of the charter school the desired format for submission (paper or electronic); the annual report is due to the charter school sponsor no later than **5:00 p.m. on December 31.**

Charter Sponsor: An electronic copy of the annual report is due to the SCDE no later than **5:00 p.m. on January 31.** The electronic copy should be submitted to: charterschools@ed.sc.gov. In the subject line include the **sponsor’s name/school’s name/2018 Annual Report.**

Format: All schools must use the provided Annual Report template and appendices templates. Each question in the application template that requires a written response includes a page limit. Answers should stay within those guidelines. Contact the SCDE Charter Schools Program at 803-734-2781 or at charterschools@ed.sc.gov if you have any questions regarding the provided templates.

Annual Report Review: All reports must be clear and fully complete in order to be evaluated by both the sponsor and the SCDE. The SCDE will review annual reports upon their submission.

III. ANNUAL REPORT QUESTIONS

1. GENERAL SCHOOL INFORMATION

In the table below, provide the following general school information:

1. General School Information	
Name of School	Discovery School
Year School Opened	2000-2001
Charter Renewal Date	2028
Grade Level(s)	Kindergarten – 5 th grade
School Address(es)	302 West Dunlap Street, Lancaster, SC 29720
School Website Address	http://dis.lancastercsd.com
Name of School Leader	Thomas H. McDuffie
School Leader’s Phone Number	803-416-8874
School Leader’s E-mail	Tom.mcduffie@lcsdmail.net
Name of Board President	Kayla Horton
Board President’s Phone Number	803-577-5279
Board President’s E-mail	Kayla.horton@comporium.com
Name of Sponsor/Local Education Agency	Lancaster County School District, Board of Trustees

2. SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

In the table below, provide the following information regarding school enrollment for grade levels applicable to the school:

Grade Level	Maximum Enrollment at Charter School	135-Day Count 2017-18	45-Day Count 2018-19
Pre-K	n/a	n/a	n/a
K	18	18	18
Grade 1	18	18	18
Grade 2	18	18	18
Grade 3	18	18	18
Grade 4	18	18	18
Grade 5	18	18	18
Grade 6	n/a	n/a	n/a
Grade 7	n/a	n/a	n/a
Grade 8	n/a	n/a	n/a
Grade 9	n/a	n/a	n/a
Grade 10	n/a	n/a	n/a
Grade 11	n/a	n/a	n/a
Grade 12	n/a	n/a	n/a
Total	108	108	108

3. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In the following sections, please reflect on the educational program, student performance data, academic goals, and progress towards the academic goals.

3.1. Academic Performance

Academic Performance Narrative (LIMIT YOUR RESPONSE TO THREE PAGES)

Using applicable data from the past school year's SC READY, SCPASS, ACT WorkKeys®, ACT®, and End of Course test scores, provide a narrative, beginning on the next page, in which you:

- describe the school's statewide assessment results
- provide an analysis of achievement gaps among major groupings of students in both proficiency and growth
- provide an explanation of how the school will close gaps and maintain or improve results.

In the spring of 2018, Discovery School students in grades three through five were administered the South Carolina Ready assessments in ELA and Math. This marked the third time that our students were exposed to these specific assessments and with only two previous benchmarks, faculty, staff, and parents were concerned that data derived from this testing might not provide a clear indication of student achievement. Based on the 2018 SC Ready data for Discovery School of Lancaster County, there were positive results overall in most areas tested with some relative weaknesses.

***For example, in the area of ELA, results indicate that 57.4% of Discovery students are either meeting or exceeding expectations, 31.4% of Discovery students are approaching expectations, while 11.1% of our students did not meet expectations. When compared to both district and state results in ELA, the indication is that Discovery students are ahead in this area.

***In the area of MATHEMATICS, results indicate that 59.3% of Discovery students are either meeting or exceeding expectations, 20.4% of Discovery students are approaching expectations, while 20.4% of our students did not meet expectations. When compared to both district and state results in mathematics, the indication is that Discovery students are ahead in this area.

---Only fourth and fifth grade students at Discovery School were assessed with PASS science and social studies during the spring of 2018.

***In the area of SCIENCE, results indicate that 58.8% of Discovery students either met or exceeded grade level standards. Another 17.6% of Discovery students are approaching expectations, while 23.6% did not meet expectations. When compared to district and state results for elementary schools in the area of science, the data indicates that Discovery students are ahead in this content area.

***In the area of SOCIAL STUDIES, results indicate that 83.3% of Discovery students either met or exceeded grade level standards, while 16.7% did not meet expectations. When compared to district and state results for elementary schools in the area of social studies, the data indicates that Discovery students are significantly ahead in this area.

---Due to the small school and class sizes at Discovery School, there are few statistical distinctions that can be made in terms of analysis of sub groups. It is interesting to note that in virtually all groups and in all content areas where test results showed that students did “not meet expectations” (SC Ready) or where students fell in the “not met” (PASS) category that our highest concentration of students with special needs (i.e. those with IEPs or 504 plans) could be found.

---Obviously, our main areas of concern are in maintaining high achievement rates in all content areas and in moving students from the “approaching category” to the “met” or “exceeds” level. Our teachers are dedicated to providing the optimal time possible for small-group and one-to-one conferencing to help with this goal.

3.2. Academic Goals and Performance

Identify the **academic** goals set forth in the school’s current charter. For each academic goal use the tables below to describe the goal, the measure or metric to be used, the target for the goal and describe the success of students in achieving the specific educational goals for which the school was established. For goals not met, explain why and what steps the school is taking to progress towards goal attainment.

Academic Goal 1

Goal	Discovery School’s SC Ready ELA “Met/Exceeds” will increase by 2% yearly.
Measure/Metric	Analysis of students’ SC Ready data. Expected growth of 2% annually based on Performance Goals from the School Renewal Plan. SC Ready for ELA was used as the state assessment in school year 2017-18.
Target	Target for 2017-18 was 61%.
Actual Outcome and Explanation	Our actual data indicates that 57.4% of Discovery School students either met or exceeded standard with 31.4% approaching and 11.1% at the “not met” level. When compared to both district and state results in ELA, the indication is that Discovery students are ahead in this area.

Academic Goal 2

Goal	Discovery School’s SC Ready math “Met/Exceeds” will increase by 2% yearly.
Measure/Metric	Analysis of students’ SC Ready data. Expected growth of 2% annually based on Performance Goals from the School Renewal Plan. SC Ready for math was used as the state assessment in school year 2017-18.
Target	Target for 2017-18 was 58%.
Actual Outcome and Explanation	Our actual data indicates that 59.3% of Discovery School students either met or exceeded standard with 20.4% approaching and 20.4% at the “not met” level. When compared to both district and state results in math, the indication is that Discovery students are ahead in this area.

Academic Goal 3

Goal	Discovery School’s PASS science “Met/Exceeds” will increase by 2% yearly.
Measure/Metric	Analysis of students’ SC PASS data. Expected growth of 2% annually based on Performance Goals from the School Renewal Plan. SC PASS for science was used as the state assessment in school year 2017-18.
Target	Target for 2017-18 was 32.5%.
Actual Outcome and Explanation	Our actual data indicates that 58.8% of Discovery School students either met or exceeded standard with 17.6% approaching and 23.6% at the “not met” level. When compared to both district and state results in science, the indication is that Discovery students are ahead in this area.

Academic Goal 4

Goal	Discovery School’s PASS social studies “Met/Exemplary” will increase by 2% yearly.
Measure/Metric	Analysis of students’ SC PASS data. Expected growth of 2% annually based on Performance Goals from the School Renewal Plan. SC PASS for social studies was used as the state assessment in school year 2017-18.
Target	Target for 2017-18 was 58%.
Actual Outcome and Explanation	Our actual data indicates that 83.3% of Discovery School students either met or exceeded standard and 16.7% at the “not met” level. When compared to both district and state results in social studies, the indication is that Discovery students are ahead in this area.

Academic Goal 5	
Goal	
Measure/Metric	
Target	
Actual Outcome and Explanation	

Academic Goal 6	
Goal	
Measure/Metric	
Target	
Actual Outcome and Explanation	

4. SCHOOL STAFF

In its discretion a charter school may hire noncertified teachers in a ratio of up to twenty-five percent of its entire teacher staff; however, if it is a converted charter school, it shall hire in its discretion noncertified teachers in a ratio of up to ten percent of its entire teacher staff. Part-time noncertified teachers are considered pro rata in calculating this percentage based on the hours which they are expected to teach.

Use the template titled “Instructional Staff Information Appendix” to provide the requested information. Save the completed template as “Instructional Staff Information Appendix” and attach it to this report.

4. School Instructional Staff			
Name	Certification #	Area(s) of Certification	Course(s) Taught
See attachment			

5. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Attach as appendices to this report:

- the school’s audited FY2018 report on financial statements
- the FY2019 approved school budget

6. BOARD PERFORMANCE AND STEWARDSHIP

6.1. Board Member Information

Use the template titled “Board Member Information Appendix” to provide the requested information. Save the completed template as “Board Member Information Appendix” and attach it to this report.

6.1. Board Member Information					
Name	Email Address	Background (ex. finance, education, business, parent, etc.)	Date Elected/ Appointed	Date of Orientation Training	Orientation Training Provider
See attachment					

6.2. Board Compliance

In the table below, provide the information regarding Board of Trustee Compliance.

6.2. Board Compliance	
Board of Trustee Compliance	Response
Number of board members required per charter.	7
Date of most recent board election.	September 8, 2017
Link to website where meeting dates, agendas, and minutes are published, if published online. If not, provide the address of the office where they are maintained.	Discovery School (main office) 302 West Dunlap Street Lancaster, SC 29720
Number and name of active committees.	6 committees – lottery, grants, public relations, oversight, expansion, and building & grounds

7. Accreditation

Is the charter school seeking SCDE Charter School Accreditation? SELECT A CHOICE BELOW
Please see <https://ed.sc.gov/districts-schools/school-choice/charter-schools-program/charter-school-accreditation/> for more information

- Yes No Already have designation

Please indicate any and all accreditations that the charter school holds, if applicable:
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8. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION REQUIRED BY THE SPONSOR

The Sponsor is permitted to request additional information as part of this annual report. Such additional information should be included in this section and submitted to the SCDE with the sponsor's annual report.