

**South Carolina Department of Education
CHARTER SCHOOL
2014 ANNUAL REPORT
TEMPLATE**

**Charter School Submission Deadline to
Sponsor: December 31, 2014**

**Sponsor Submission Deadline to SCDE:
January 31, 2015**

School Name: Discovery School of Lancaster County

Sponsor: Lancaster County School District

Date of Submission to Sponsor: December 9, 2014

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: One hard copy of the annual report is due to the charter school sponsor no later than **5:00 p.m. on December 31**. The hard copy must include all charts. Additionally, the charter school must submit an electronic version of the full report (including all charts) in PDF format to the sponsor.

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/2015 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 of Lancaster County
Year School Opened	2000
Charter Renewal Date	2018
Grade Level(s)	K-5
School Address(es)	302 West Dunlap Street
School Website Address	http://lancasterdis.ss5.sharpschool.com/
Name of School Leader	Thomas McDuffie
School Leader’s Phone Number	803-416-8874
School Leader’s E-mail	Tom.mcduffie@lcsdmail.net
Name of Board President	Kimberly Waldo
Board President’s Phone Number	803-416-6398
Board President’s E-mail	wkwaldo@comporium.net
Name of Sponsor/Local Education Agency	Lancaster County School District

2. SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

In the table below, provide the following information regarding school enrollment:

Grade Level	Maximum Enrollment at Charter School	135-Day Count 2013-14	45-Day Count 2014-15
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	17	18
Grade 6	0	0	0
Total	108	107	108

3. EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In accordance with S.C. Code Ann. Regs. 43-601, section VII (B)(2), sponsors must use increases in student academic achievement for all groups of students as the most important factor when determining to renew or revoke a school's charter. A charter school sponsor shall permanently close any charter at the conclusion of the school year after receiving the lowest performance level rating as defined by the federal accountability system for three consecutive years in accordance with S.C. Code Ann. § 59-40-110(E).

3.1. Academic Performance

3.1.A. ESEA/Federal Accountability Rating System

In the table below, provide the following ESEA information.

3.1.A. ESEA/Federal Accountability Rating System	
	2013-14
Overall Weighted Points	99
Overall Grade Conversion	A

3.1.B. Academic Performance Narrative

Using data from the 2014 State Report Card and the 2014 ESEA Waiver Accountability Report, 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.

(Limit your response to three pages)

Due to the small school and class size at Discovery School, comparative analysis of sub-groups is not applicable. Sub-group sizes are statistically insignificant and data are not included for any sub-groups on Discovery School's State Report Card. Our main goal at Discovery School continues to be the implementation of the Common Core and state standards through a multiple intelligence approach to teaching and learning. Students at Discovery School have achieved at relatively high levels on standardized assessments. Report card ratings, ESEA reports, as well as qualitative data as measured through rubrics and stakeholder surveys support the fact that Discovery School students are achieving at appropriate levels. Discovery has several outstanding areas in data. On ESEA, students performed at the Mean of 640 or above in writing, ELA, math, and social studies. Improvement in science of .8 points on the All Category shows a noted improvement from no improvement points in 2013. We will continue to provide substantive standards-based curricula and to implement innovative programs in accordance to all stipulations of our charter for the benefit of all students at the school.

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 ELA PASS “Met”/ “Exemplary” will increase by .5% yearly
Measure/Metric	Analysis of students’ PASS data. Expected growth of .5% annually based on Performance Goals from the School Renewal Plan.
Target	Composite target of all grade levels would equal 79.1% at “Met” / “Exemplary”.
Actual Outcome and Explanation	Composite of all grade levels was actually 90.4% due to a combination of factors including the following: implementation of the Fast Forward Program; in-class cluster groupings based on MAP RIT scores and other data; adherence to Personal Education Plans for 100% of the students at Discovery School; implementation of a school-wide focus on Common Core State Standards through student portfolios with an emphasis on informational texts and research; faculty book studies related to academic rigor and critical thinking; use of the school’s Student Assistance Team and the RtI process as needed; continued emphasis on the Thinking Maps Program, Core Knowledge literature, Classworks, and the Renzulli Learning System; as well as increased focus on data analysis, progress monitoring, and communication with stakeholders.

Academic Goal 2	
Goal	Discovery School’s Math PASS “Met”/ “Exemplary” will increase by 1.5% yearly.
Measure/Metric	Analysis of students’ PASS data. Expected growth of 1.5% annually based on Performance Goals from the School Renewal Plan.
Target	Composite target of all grade levels would equal 71.1% at “Met” / “Exemplary
Actual Outcome and Explanation	Composite of all grade levels was actually 75.8% due to a combination of factors including the following: implementation of the Fast Forward Program; in-class cluster groupings based on MAP RIT scores and other data; adherence to Personal Education Plans for 100% of the students at Discovery School; implementation of a school-wide focus on Common Core State Standards through student portfolios with an emphasis on informational texts and research; faculty book studies related to academic rigor and critical thinking; use of the school’s Student Assistance Team and the RtI process as needed; continued emphasis on the Thinking Maps Program, My Math interventions, Classworks, and the Renzulli Learning System; as well as increased focus on data analysis, progress monitoring, and communication with stakeholders.

Academic Goal 3	
Goal	Discovery School’s science PASS “Met”/ “Exemplary” will increase by 2% yearly.
Measure/Metric	Analysis of students’ PASS data. Expected growth of 2% annually based on

	Performance Goals from the School Renewal Plan.
Target	Composite target of all grade levels tested would equal 72% at “Met” / “Exemplary”.
Actual Outcome and Explanation	Composite of all grade levels was 74.2% due to a combination of factors including the following: implementation of the Fast Forward Program; in-class cluster groupings based on MAP RIT scores and other data; adherence to Personal Education Plans for 100% of the students at Discovery School; implementation of a school-wide focus on Common Core State Standards through student portfolios with an emphasis on informational texts and research; faculty book studies related to academic rigor and critical thinking; use of the school’s Student Assistance Team and the RtI process as needed; continued emphasis on the Thinking Maps Program, My Math interventions, Classworks, and the Renzulli Learning System; as well as increased focus on data analysis, progress monitoring, and communication with stakeholders.

Academic Goal 4	
Goal	Discovery School’s social studies PASS “Met”/ “Exemplary” will increase by .5% yearly.
Measure/Metric	Analysis of students’ PASS data. Expected growth of .5% annually based on Performance Goals from the School Renewal Plan.
Target	Composite target of all grade levels tested would equal 88.6% at “Met” / “Exemplary”.
Actual Outcome and Explanation	Composite of all grade levels was 82.3% due to a combination of factors including the following: the fact that 11% of the students in the group tested have been formally identified as having learning disabilities. Students identified as “learning disabled” are receiving appropriate services through small-group work with our resource teacher and through in-class accommodations per requirements of their IEPs; however, these students typically do not do well on standardized tests. In addition, the small class sizes at Discovery School increase the probability of sampling bias in relation to standardized testing.

Academic Goal 5	
Goal	Discovery School’s writing PASS “Met”/“Exemplary” will increase by .5% yearly.
Measure/Metric	Analysis of students’ PASS data. Expected growth of .5% annually based on Performance Goals from the School Renewal Plan.
Target	Composite target of all grade levels tested would equal 77.9% at “Met” / “Exemplary”.
Actual Outcome and Explanation	Composite of all grade levels was 94.2% due to a combination of factors including: implementation of the Fast Forward Program; in-class cluster groupings based on MAP RIT scores and other data; adherence to Personal Education Plans for 100% of the students at Discovery School; implementation of a school-wide focus on Common Core State Standards through student portfolios with an emphasis on informational texts and research; faculty book studies related to academic rigor and critical thinking; use of the school’s Student Assistance

	Team and the RtI process as needed; continued emphasis on the Thinking Maps Program, My Math interventions, Classworks, and the Renzulli Learning System; as well as increased focus on data analysis, progress monitoring, and communication with stakeholders.
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Academic Goal 6	
Goal	n/a
Measure/Metric	n/a
Target	n/a
Actual Outcome and Explanation	n/a

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

5. FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND SUSTAINABILITY

Attach as appendices to this report:

- the school’s audited FY2014 report on financial statements
- the FY2015 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

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 29, 2014
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 Office 302 West Dunlap Street Lancaster, SC 29720
Number and name of active committees.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Lottery committee 2. Building and grounds committee 3. Grants committee 4. Expansion committee 5. Public relations committee 6. Oversight committee

7. 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.