

Abbeville County School District

Public School Choice Options

According to the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001* (NCLB), an opportunity must be provided to your child to attend another school within the school district or possibly a neighboring district if your child is enrolled in a Title I school identified as a school “in need of improvement.” A school is identified as in need of improvement if the school has not met the state’s definition of Adequately Yearly Progress (AYP) for at least two consecutive years.

Westwood Elementary School has not made AYP for two consecutive years and therefore has been newly identified for school improvement and must offer Public School Choice, the opportunity for you to transfer your child to another school. Westwood Elementary School has made significant academic progress as demonstrated by its achievement in 2011 of the Palmetto Silver Award for General Achievement awarded by the South Carolina Department of Education. However, Westwood Elementary did not meet one of the state achievement targets for one sub-group of the population. According to NCLB, if a school misses even one of its targets for two consecutive years, the school is identified as in need of improvement and must offer choice.

The three schools within Abbeville County School District that have the same grade levels as Westwood Elementary and that are not under school improvement to which your child may transfer are Cherokee Trail Elementary, Diamond Hill Elementary, and John C. Calhoun Elementary. The following charts summarize the 2011 PASS Test results for grades 3, 4, and 5 for all four schools.

Writing Grade	STATE % Pass	District % Pass	CTE % Pass	DHE % Pass	JCCE % Pass	WWE % Pass
3						
4						
5	77.7	77.2	91.1	71.0	91.3	70.2

ELA Grade	STATE % Pass	District % Pass	CTE % Pass	DHE % Pass	JCCE % Pass	WWE % Pass
3	80.0	88.3	96.0	78.4	97.2	85.5
4	78.0	81.0	75.0	83.7	88.0	81.3
5	78.3	82.9	91.1	64.5	87.0	83.1

Math Grade	STATE % Pass	District % Pass	CTE % Pass	DHE % Pass	JCCE % Pass	WWE % Pass
3	70.4	86.6	84.0	91.9	91.7	84.7
4	79.4	84.4	85.7	89.8	76.0	83.5
5	75.3	82.1	91.1	71.0	78.3	81.5

Science Grade	STATE % Pass	District % Pass	CTE % Pass	DHE % Pass	JCCE % Pass	WWE % Pass
3	60.8	73.6	70.8	85.0	88.2	67.2
4	70.9	80.7	82.1	89.8	88.0	75.5
5	64.9	68.0	82.8	80.0	72.7	58.2

Social Studies Grade	STATE % Pass	District % Pass	CTE % Pass	DHE % Pass	JCCE % Pass	WWE % Pass
3	76.6	89.5	100.0	76.5	100.0	85.5
4	77.1	82.2	78.6	83.7	92.0	81.3
5	70.4	73.7	81.5	62.5	91.7	69.8

Source: <http://ed.sc.gov/topics/assessment/scores/pass/2011/>

When you compare the 2011 PASS scores for the four schools listed above in the charts with the State results, the following results are found:

- At Westwood Elementary School, students scored above the State level in ten out of thirteen areas (subjects and grades) and below the State level in three areas (5th grade writing, science, and social studies).
- At Cherokee Trail Elementary, students scored above the State level in twelve out of thirteen areas (subjects and grades) and below the State level in one area (4th grade English language arts).
- At Diamond Hill Elementary, students scored above the State level in seven out of thirteen areas (subjects and grades) and below the State level in six areas (3rd grade English language arts and social studies and 5th grade writing, English language arts, mathematics, and social studies).
- At John C. Calhoun Elementary, students scored above the State level in twelve out of thirteen areas (subjects and grades) and below the State level in one area (4th grade mathematics).

Overall, the PASS Results for Westwood Elementary School are slightly less or relatively comparable to the other elementary schools. As a result, Cherokee Trail Elementary, Diamond Hill Elementary, and John C. Calhoun Elementary received a Palmetto Gold Award for General Achievement and Westwood Elementary received a Palmetto Silver Award for General Achievement. Westwood Elementary School was “newly identified” for school improvement because it failed to meet the state target for one sub-group for two consecutive years.

Over the next three months, the faculty and staff of Westwood Elementary School will be updating their School Improvement Plan to address these deficiencies in meeting the state targets. If you would like to be involved in the planning process, please contact Mr. David Nixon, Principal of Westwood Elementary School, at 864-366-9604.