HORRY COUNTY SCHOOLS
MONITORING REPORT – R-3 Science

I certify that the information in this report is true.

Signed: _____ Date:
Rick Maxey, Superintendent

Disposition of the Board:
_____ In compliance
_____ Not in compliance
_____ Compliance with exception

Signed: _____ Date:
Ken Richardson, Board Chair

Comments: _____
_____
_____
_____

R-3 – Science	Supt	Supt	Board	Board
	In compliance	Not in compliance	In compliance	Not in compliance
Each student will achieve mastery of performance standards in science.	✔			

Interpretation: I interpret this policy to mean that Horry County Schools will implement a course of study that is aligned with the South Carolina academic standards for K-12 for science.

I further interpret this to mean that the staff will regularly monitor and evaluate the instructional programs at each school as part of the ongoing efforts to improve student learning in the area of science. Staff will also provide ongoing support through professional development opportunities designed to build capacity by establishing exemplary science curriculum and assessments, developing content knowledge, and fostering strong literacy experiences for our K-12 science teachers.
.

Indicators of Evidence and Compliance:

We are in full compliance of this policy. Evidence is listed below:

- Horry County Schools curriculum and course offerings are aligned with the South Carolina Science and Engineering Standards.
- Instructional materials adoption processes comply with state requirements.

- All students in grades K-5 receive STEM instruction as an exploratory class through the Project Lead the Way (PLTW) Launch program.
- Students in grades 6-8 receive STEM instruction as an exploratory class through PLTW Gateway.
- Students in grades 9-12 have the option to specialize in STEM pathways.
- Science kits and/or lab materials are provided to support science instruction in grades K-12.
- The District maintains a science kit distribution center to supply science kits to elementary classrooms.
- All high school biology classes have digital microscopes and digital data probes to collect, organize, graph, and save the data for study or presentations.
- *Discovery Education Science Techbook* is used in grades 3 – 12 to support science instruction.
- Online resources and instructional technology tools are provided to support science instruction. *Gizmos* by Explore Learning is used in grades 6 – 12. *Lab-Aids* is used in grades 6 – 8 to support science instruction.
- Consensus maps (pacing guides), lesson plans, and assessments have been developed to support instruction and learning.
- Instructional emphasis is placed on content vocabulary, content-area literacy, interactive notebooking, problem-based learning, scientific modeling, and writing portfolios.
- Evidence-based writing is embedded into K-12 science instruction, focusing on claims and scientific reasoning.
- Honors curricula have been differentiated by course content, methods, materials, and assessments.
- The SC Honors Framework is used for honors-weighted courses at the high school level in order to ensure rigor and comparability across the state.
- The District currently offers six science AP courses, including AP Biology, AP Chemistry, AP Environmental Science, AP Physics I, AP Physics C: Mechanics, and AP Physics C: Electricity and Magnetism.
- District-developed common assessments are used as tools to progress monitor mastery of standards and to assist teachers in making instructional decisions in grades 3-8 and high school biology (optional for high school physical science).
- Fifth- and seventh-grade students participate in the Soil and Water Conservation essay contest.
- Teachers presented at state and national conferences and served on various state committees focused on standards, curriculum, assessment, and textbook adoption.