

**HORRY COUNTY SCHOOLS  
MONITORING REPORT – R-3 Science**

I certify that the information in this report is true.

Signed:  Date: January 9, 2017  
Rick Maxey, Superintendent

Disposition of the Board:

☐ In compliance  
☐ Not in compliance  
☐ Compliance with exception

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: January 23, 2017  
Joe DeFeo, 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. This is the first year for full implementation of these standards.

- Instructional materials adoption processes comply with state requirements.
- 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 to independently collect, organize and graph microscopic data and save the data for study or presentations.
- Online resources and instructional technology tools are provided 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 elementary science instruction, focusing on claims and scientific reasoning.
- Eighth-grade honors science and high school honors physical science, biology, and chemistry curricula utilize ACT's college-readiness standards and AP assessment items.
- STEM programs and opportunities are being expanded throughout secondary programs, with one HCS school achieving AdvancEd STEM accreditation status.
- HCS teams from high schools and academies will participate in the 2017 FIRST Palmetto Regional Robotic Challenge.
- The SC FIRST Lego League (FLL) will hold two state championships this year due to the number of participating schools. HCS teams from elementary schools and middle schools will have the opportunity to advance to the South Carolina FLL Eastern State Championship.
- Advanced Placement opportunities have continued to expand, with increases in enrollment in AP science courses since 2011. The District currently offers four science AP courses, including AP Biology; AP Chemistry; AP Environmental Science; and AP Physics I and C.
- Continued improvement in student learning is evidenced as measured by the AP assessment results in the area of science. Average district scores in biology, environmental science, and physics are above the state, national, and global levels of performance.
- District-developed benchmark assessments are used as tools to progress monitor mastery of standards and to assist teachers in making instructional decisions in grades 3-8 and biology.
- HCS Virtual offers an array of science courses.
- Fifth- and sixth-grade students participate in the Soil and Water Conservation essay contest.
- Horry County Schools continues to partner with the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics to offer a STEM-related summer camp for rising 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders.
- Horry County Schools collaborates with Coastal Carolina University to implement a Math Science Partnership STEM Grant in middle and high schools.

- Teachers' expertise is recognized and many are asked to share their knowledge with others at state and national conferences and serve on various state committees focused on standards, curriculum, assessment, and textbook adoption.