HORRY COUNTY SCHOOLS
MONITORING REPORT – R-3 Science

I certify that the information in this report is true.

Signed: Rick Maxey Date: 1/25/16
Rick Maxey, Superintendent

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

Signed: _____ Date: _____
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.

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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 Standards and include a transition plan for implementation of the South Carolina Science and Engineering Standards.
- Instructional materials adoption processes comply with state requirements.

- Implementation of the South Carolina state support document is an emphasis.
- 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 that will independently collect, organize and graph microscopic data and save the data for study or presentations.
- Availability of online resources and instructional technology tools are used to support science instruction.
- The Discovery Education Science Techbook has been implemented as a resource to support grades 3-8 science teachers and students.
- Consensus maps (pacing guides), lesson plans, and assessments have been developed to support improved teaching and learning.
- Expanded teaching strategies such as content vocabulary, content-area literacy, interactive notebooking, problem-based learning, scientific modeling, and writing portfolios are areas of focus.
- Evidence-based writing has been embedded into elementary science with students developing claims backed up with evidence and scientific reasoning.
- Eighth-grade honors science and high school honors physical science, biology, and chemistry curricula utilize ACT's college-readiness standards. AP assessment items and extended-response items are being implemented in middle schools.
- Project Lead the Way (PLTW) programs are offered at Conway High School and The Academy for Technology and Academics.
- The 2016 FIRST Palmetto Robotics Challenge will be held at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center February 25-27. HCS teams from high schools and academies will participate.
- The SC FIRST Lego League for Robotics held a qualifying event at Coastal Carolina University on Saturday, December 5, 2015. HCS had 19 elementary and middle school teams participate with original robot designs, challenges, core values, and research projects.
- The SC FIRST Lego League (FLL) will hold two state championships this year due to the number of participating schools. HCS teams from two elementary schools and three middle schools are advancing to the South Carolina FLL Eastern State Championship to be held on February 13, 2016, at Carolina Forest High School.
- 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, II, 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, chemistry, and physics are above the state, national, and global levels of performance.
- District-developed benchmark assessments have been implemented in grades 3-8 and in biology and are being used as tools to progress monitor mastery of standards and to assist teachers in making instructional decisions.

- Horry County Virtual School continues to offer an array of science courses.
- 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.
- Fifth- and seventh-grade students participate in the Soil and Water Conservation sponsored essay contest that requires students to research information on a science standard and then write an essay.
- Horry County Schools continues to partner with the South Carolina Governor's School for Science and Mathematics to offer the iTEAMS XTREME (Innovation, Technology and Entrepreneurship Among Middle Schoolers) summer camp for rising 7th and 8th graders.
- Horry County Schools has collaborated with Coastal Carolina University to obtain a Math Science Partnership STEM Grant. Participants will develop related math, science, and technology content knowledge through professional development with CCU professors.
- Review of digital content to support science instruction is ongoing.
- Horry County Schools offers a four-year STEM program.
- Horry County Schools library media programs support science standards by providing print and digital resources for reading and investigative research.