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Report from the Academic Standards and Assessments Subcommittee



December 6, 2000

What We're Recommending

- 10 year phase-in of grading scales to give time for implementing standards-based education including teacher development, instructional material alignment, and student achievement improvement.

What We're Recommending

Report Card Grading: Absolute Grades – 3 - 8

Grade	Initial Score Required	Student Skill Level	2010 Score Required	Student Skill Level
Excellent	3.4 and above	Approaching proficient	4.0 and above	Proficient to Advanced
Good	3.0 - 3.3	At Basic level	3.6 - 3.9	Approaching Proficient
Average	2.6 - 2.9	Below Basic level	3.2 - 3.5	Above Basic level
Below Average	2.2 - 2.5	Over 50% could be below Basic level	2.8 - 3.1	At Basic level
Unsatisfactory	Below 2.2	Over 80% could be below Basic level	Below 2.8	Over 20% could be below Basic level

These grades can increase or decrease based on the percentage of students below basic.

What We're Recommending

Report Card Grading: District Performance

- Based on 2000 scores for grades 3 through 8, six districts would receive an Absolute Performance Rating of Unsatisfactory.
- Without any improvement by 2010, 51 districts—or 59% of all districts—would receive an Absolute Performance Rating of Unsatisfactory.

Funding

Issue: Is the base student cost adequate?

Response: This should be researched, but the 85% correlation of free/reduced lunch to aggregated PACT scores indicates that areas with the least taxing ability have the lowest scores. These areas also have the lowest wages, highest unemployment, and are the least attractive for economic development. The EFA should include all funds, include a poverty index, and consider taxing effort.

Issue: Are teacher salaries sufficient to ensure quality teaching?

Response: This should be researched, and expanded compensation factors should be considered. In general, though, lower tax base districts have lower teacher salaries, less ability to increase teacher salaries, and lower scores. We must address recruitment, retention, and development as well as expand contract days, especially for low achieving districts.



PMSC U.S. Locations

- California
- Florida
- Illinois
- Indiana
- Massachusetts
- New Hampshire
- New Jersey
- North Carolina
- Pennsylvania
- South Carolina
- Tennessee
- Texas



PMSC International Locations

- Argentina
- Australia
- Austria
- Canada
- Colombia
- Germany
- Hong Kong
- India
- Japan
- Malaysia
- New Zealand
- Norway
- Singapore
- South Africa
- Spain
- Sweden
- Thailand
- Taiwan
- United Kingdom
- Venezuela



Moving South Carolina Forward

Presentation to the South Carolina
Economic Developers Association

By Larry Wilson
General Partner, The Trelys Funds
August 14, 2003

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What's so new about the New Economy?

- **The early 1900s**
 - Agriculture drives the SC economy.
 - Clemson A&M is critical to our success.
- **The 1960s**
 - Manufacturing drives our economy.
 - The TEC system is fundamental to our success.
- **The 21st Century...The New Economy**
 - Low-wages and tax incentives are no longer enough to attract new businesses.
 - Homegrown, knowledge-based businesses are driving the U.S. economy.
 - Top-tier universities are vital to our success.

Palmetto Institute Research Findings

- South Carolina is not doing that well economically
- Unless we make some difficult changes, we may never compete with our Atlantic Coast neighbors and the nation in the knowledge-based economy
- Personal income 18% below national and neighboring Atlantic Coast states average, and declining
- Gross state output 20% below national average
- Manufacturing wages 24% below national average
- SC wages were \$29,212, U.S. average was \$36,316 in 2000

Findings of the Progressive Policy Institute

- 2002 study ranked states based on 21 indicators of New Economy preparedness.
- How did we rank against our neighbors?
 16. Florida
 22. Georgia
 26. North Carolina
 - 41. South Carolina**

Source: Progressive Policy Institute, 2002

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South Carolina's Position in Global Economy Must Change

- Now based on set of mature and declining industry clusters like basic materials, textiles and automotive assembly
- Driven in past by labor cost and taxation
- Home office exodus and impact on professional infrastructure

Where are we?

- Strengths:
 - Quality of life
 - Business climate
 - Our people
- Must improve:
 - Labor force skills*
 - Access to capital
 - Infrastructure

** The single most important area of emphasis*