



**Colleton County School District**  
*Making A World Of Difference To Make A Different World*

213 North Jefferies Boulevard, Walterboro, SC 29488  
 (843) 782-4527 - Phone (843) 549-9075 - Fax  
 www.colletonsd.org



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**Contact: Franklin L. Foster**  
 (843) 782-4510  
[ffoster@colletonsd.org](mailto:ffoster@colletonsd.org)

## End-of-Course Examination Program Test Results Published

The South Carolina Department of Education published the results of the 2014 End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP) assessments for all students seeking to earn a SC high school diploma on September 30, 2014. State law requires these tests be administered to all students enrolled in English 1, Algebra 1, Biology 1, and US History and the Constitution. Each student's assessment accounts for 20% of the final grade in each course.

The average mean scale score percentage and the passing rate of district students completing EOCEP tests compared to the state results in 13-14 as reported by the SCDE is charted below:

**13-14 EOCEP Results for District and State:**

| End-of-Course Content Area | Colleton MEAN Score % | SC MEAN Score % | Colleton Passing % | State Passing % |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| ELA/English 1              | 75.2                  | 78.4            | 66.7               | 77              |
| Algebra 1                  | 76.4                  | 82.1            | 74.7               | 85.6            |
| Biology 1                  | 76.6                  | 81.8            | 71                 | 78.8            |
| US History & Constitution  | 70.9                  | 74.9            | 53                 | 65.4            |

According to Mr. Cliff Warren, Principal of Colleton County High School (CCHS), the average mean scale score for all subgroups has increased this year in US History and the US History passing rate has increased by 14% over the previous year. He also indicated that the US History passage rate and the Algebra 1 passing rate have increased over the past three years. Both Biology 1 and English 1 saw decreases in performance. In order to address areas of concern, Principal Warren is coordinating several adjustments to the high school schedule that are designed to improve the EOCEP scores of students. These changes include:

- A ninth grade academy has been established so their classes are a mainly in one area of the building.
- 9<sup>th</sup> grade English I, Algebra I, and physical science classes are all year long courses (as opposed to the remaining classes being block scheduled, lasting for one semester and 90 minutes long)
- Staff development for teachers by teachers from other schools whose students have had notable success on EOCEP exams.

Also, CCHS expects its teachers to reflect on the results of the EOC exam to identify topics that may need to be taught in more depth.

Assistant Superintendent Bob Pence commented, “In comparing Colleton’s results with the rest of the state, it is important to note that we have students who can compete with anyone.” Ten of our students had a scale score of 100 in Biology, six had a scale score of 100 in English 1, and two students had a scale score of 100 in US History. 14.4% of students in Algebra 1, 34% in Biology, 28% in English 1, and 33% in US History scored above the state average.

Mr. Pence acknowledged the district’s average scores are below the state’s average in each of the EOCEP area. “Our challenge is to promote and emphasize to students and their families the importance of an education. Education is the key to opening doors to opportunities. I believe the vast majority of our students are academically capable and we as educators, families and greater community need to find ways to motivate our youth to focus on education.”

Dr. Franklin Foster, Interim Superintendent, observed that Colleton County Middle School’s Algebra I and English I average of scale scores were **above the state average**. Dr. Foster notes that Algebra I and English I classes at the middle school level are composed of honors students who have met rigorous academic requirements, however these higher scores are not included in the mean score tabulated above. About 20% of the middle school students participated in such honors classes last year. If these middle school students participated in the EOCEP at the high school, their scores would have had a positive impact on the high school’s average scale score and passing rates. The state excludes the high achievement of these excellent 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from the high school’s average as the students receive high school credit in their eighth grade year.

Dr. Foster commends the teachers and students for their efforts for continuous improvement. While the district has several non-academic issues that it is addressing, he is pleased that teachers and students at all grade levels are focused on the academics.

Educating our students takes the effort of the entire community. The Colleton County School District thanks the many parent volunteers and business partners that are actively building their partnerships with our schools to promote and support improvements in student achievement. The complete EOCEP report can be accessed at

<http://ed.sc.gov/data/eocep/eocep.cfm?year=2014>