SC Education Oversight
ASA Subcommittee Meeting

May 20, 2024

Action Item: Report on the Educational Performance of Military-Connected Students in SC, 2024

Dr. Sara Jane Arnett, Consultant to the EOC

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EDUCATIONAL PERFORMANCE OF MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENTS IN SOUTH CAROLINA - 2024 REPORT

PREPARED BY:
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PREPARED FOR:
SOUTH CAROLINA EDUCATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

Objectives

- Present Areas of Insight to Include Federal, State and Local Level Reporting

- Highlight Academic Performance of Military Connected-Students compared to Non-Military Connected Students

- Provide Purple Star Schools Overview

- Outline Findings and Recommendations

- Open Discussion for Questions

Background

Act 289:
The Military Family Quality of Life Enhancement Act (2014)

Federal Military-Connected Student

"Students who are military connected: Status as a student with a parent who is a member of the armed forces on active duty or serves on full-time National Guard duty, where 'armed force,' 'active duty,' and 'full-time National Guard duty' have the same meanings"

Per definition of MCS, students identified by Code 00, 01 or 02 are not considered MCS and are not included in MCS reporting.

Federal Military-Connected Student (MCS) Requirements (continued)

Table 1. Military-Connected Student Codes PowerSchool is the current South Carolina Student Information System (SIS)

Code	Meaning
00 or blank	Neither Parent nor Guardian is serving in any military service.
01	A Parent or Guardian is serving in the National Guard but is not deployed.
02	A Parent or Guardian is serving in the Reserves but is not deployed.
03	A Parent or Guardian is serving in the National Guard and is currently deployed.
04	A Parent or Guardian is serving in the Reserves and is currently deployed.
05	A Parent or Guardian is serving in the military on active duty but is not deployed.
06	A Parent or Guardian is serving in the military on active duty and is currently deployed.
07	The student's Parent or Guardian died while on active duty within the last year.
08	The student's Parent or Guardian was wounded while on active duty within the last year.

STATE MILITARY-CONNECTED STUDENT REPORTING

Table 2. Population of Military-Connected Students in South Carolina by School Year (SY)
Data collected within the Student Information System

Military Connection	MCS School Year District Level Counts (180-Day Enrollment Data)				
	SY 2018-2019	SY 2019-2020	SY 2020-2021	SY 2021-2022	SY 2022-2023
Active Duty Military, Not Deployed	9,314	9,672	9,540	9,465	10,778
National Guard, Not Deployed	2,631	3,027	3,896	3,256	3,311
Reserves, Not Deployed	2,075	2,308	2,276	2,257	2,748
Active Duty Military, Wounded within last year	591	1,087	1,368	1,430	1,131
Active Duty Military, Currently Deployed	1,021	1,081	1,065	1,117	1,134
National Guard, Currently Deployed	506	543	525	502	583
Reserves, Currently Deployed	295	368	369	420	360
Active Duty Military, Deceased within last year	82	151	190	188	176
Totals:	**16,515**	**18,237**	**19,229**	**18,635**	**20,221**

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(REFER TO PAGE 7)

Local Level Reporting

Districts Reporting Zero Military-Connected Students (25)

- Anderson 5
- Bamberg 3
- Calhoun
- Chester
- Dillon 3
- Dorchester 4
- Fairfield
- Florence 5
- Greenwood 51

- Greenwood 52
- Jasper
- Laurens 55
- Lee
- Marion 10
- Marlboro
- Spartanburg 4
- Spartanburg 6
- Spartanburg 7

- Limestone Charter Association
- SC Governor's School of Agriculture
- SC School for the Deaf & the Blind
- SC Department of Juvenile Justice
- Palmetto Unified
- SC Governor's School for the Arts & Humanities
- SC Governor's School for Science & Mathematics

Demographics of Military-Connected Students

- **Racial Make-Up**
- **Enrollment % by Grade**
- **Advanced Placement Exam Passage**

Academic Performance of Military-Connected Students
Kindergarten Readiness Assessment, SC READY and SC PASS

Academic Performance of Military-Connected Students - KRA

This section compares the 2022-2023 school year performance of MCS to Non-MCS in South Carolina across various *measures*, including the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment (KRA), SC READY and SC PASS tests, End-of-Course Examination Program (EOCEP), Advanced Placement (AP) Examinations, and High School Graduation Rates.

Table 8. MCS and Non-MCS KRA Performance

	MCS	Non-MCS
Demonstrating Readiness	45.34%	37.96%
Approaching Readiness	36.01%	34.14%
Emerging Readiness	18.15%	27.24%

KRA Performance of MCS and Non-MCS

KRA measures readiness in 1) Social Foundations 2) Language/Literacy 3) Mathematics and 4) Physical Well-Being. During the 2022-2023 school year, MCS demonstrated readiness at a rate of 45.34% compared to 37.96% of Non-MCS students as shown in Table 8.

(REFER TO PAGES 12-13)

Academic Performance of Military-Connected Students SC Ready and SCPASS

The South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Assessments (SC READY) program is a state-wide assessment designed to measure student performance in English Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics for grades 3 - 8 The South Carolina Palmetto Assessment of State Standards (SCPASS) is another statewide assessment program that focuses solely on assessing science at 4th and 6th grades. During the 2022-2023 School Year, MCS were more likely to score Meets or Exceeds in Mathematics, ELA and Science.
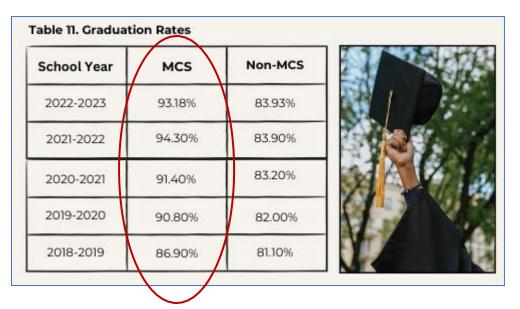
Table 9. 2022-2023 School Year SC READY and SC PASS Performance

	Student Group	Count	% Does Not Meet	% Approaches	% Meet	% Exceeds	% Meets or Exceeds
SC Ready Math	MCS	6,308	11.76%	20.77%	28.44%	38.87%	67.26%
	Non-MCS	340,066	21.57%	24.87%	24.91%	28.65%	53.56%
SC Ready ELA	MCS	6,306	19.68%	28.85%	26.94%	24.53%	51.47%
	Non-MCS	340,154	31.06%	28.43%	20.83%	19.68%	40.51%
SC PASS Science	MCS	2,073	21.85%	19.92%	29.96%	28.27%	58.23%
	Non-MCs	111,819	33.70%	21.70%	24.48%	20.12%	44.60%

Academic Performance of Military-Connected Students (cont.)

End-of-Course Examination Program, High School Graduation Rates and Attendance Rates

Table 10. EOCEP Performance

Subject	SY	# of MCS	Mean Score	% Passing (A, B or C)	# of Non-MCS	Mean Score	% Passing (A, B or C)
Algebra I	2022-23	1,125	73.38	57.42%	64,993	69.31	45.26%
English II	2022-23	1,111	81.73	79.30%	60,962	77.82	67.86%
Biology I	2022-23	1,091	71.62	53.80%	63,102	66.93	43.17%
US. History & the Constitution	2022-23	859	71.97	54.37%	54,706	67.56	44.82%

Table 11. Graduation Rates

School Year	MCS	Non-MCS
2022-2023	93.18%	83.93%
2021-2022	94.30%	83.90%
2020-2021	91.40%	83.20%
2019-2020	90.80%	82.00%
2018-2019	86.90%	81.10%

Table 12. Attendance Rates

	MCS	Non-MCS
Average Days Absent	10	11.49
Average Days Attended	93.65%	93.04%

Purple Star Schools Program

- Statewide initiative that recognizes school districts and campuses which show a concerted commitment to military-connected families by providing extra support, resources and focus

- Managed by the South Carolina Department of Education subcommittee, Military Interstate Children's Compact Commission under the leadership of Dr. Kim Priester, MIC3 Commissioner

- Developed and promoted by stakeholders to increase awareness of military-connected student challenges to better meet and support educational needs

Findings and Recommendations

Military Connection	PERCENTAGES					
	SY 2018-2019	SY 2022-2023	%	SY 2021-2022	SY 2022-2023	%
Active Duty Military, Not Deployed	9,314	10,778	**15.72%**	9,465	10,778	**13.87%**
National Guard, Not Deployed	2,631	3,311	**25.85%**	3,256	3,311	**1.68%**
Reserves, Not Deployed	2,075	2,748	**32.43%**	2,257	2,748	**21.75%**
Active Duty Military, Wounded within last year	591	1,131	**91.37%**	1,430	1,131	**-20.9%**
Active Duty Military, Currently Deployed	1021	1,134	**11.07%**	1,117	1,134	**1.52%**
National Guard, Currently Deployed	506	583	**15.22%**	502	583	**16.14%**
Reserves, Currently Deployed	295	360	**22.03%**	420	360	**-14.29%**
Active Duty Military, Deceased within last year	82	176	**114.63%**	188	176	**-6.68%**
Totals:	16,515	20,221	**22.44%**	18,635	20,221	**8.51%**

(REFER TO PAGES 17-18, 25)

Findings and Recommendations (cont.)

Historical Assessments and Themes:

- Data quality
- Additional research needed
- Lack of uniform MSI collection protocol

Open Discussion

Information Item: Cut Score Concordance of College Readiness Exams

Dr. Matthew Lavery

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What is the 2018 Concordance Study?

- Establishes a relationship between two tests that measure similar (but not identical) constructs

- ACT and the College Board conducted a concordance study to find comparable scores on the other test

- The concordance tables allow us to say that:

  - A composite score of **20 on the ACT** is equivalent to a combined score of about **1040 on the SAT** (*ranging from 1030 to 1050*)

  - A combined score of **1020 on the SAT** is equivalent to a composite score of about **19 on the ACT**

How are College-Ready Benchmarks Set?

ACT: Minimum score on subject area test to indicate **50% chance** of obtaining a **B or higher** or about a **75% chance** of obtaining a **C or higher** in the corresponding credit-bearing college courses

SAT: Minimum score on subject test to indicate a **75% chance** of earning **at least a C** in first-semester, credit-bearing college courses in the corresponding subject

Points to Consider

- Both ACT and College Board publish college ready benchmark scores for subtests, **_not_** for composite scores
- The current college ready benchmarks for the ACT <u>produce a composite score of **21**</u>
  - Current CCR criterion for ACT is set to 20 in Accountability Manual
- The current college ready benchmarks for the SAT <u>produce a combined score of **1010**</u>
  - Current criterion for SAT is set to 1020 in Accountability Manual
- According to concordance tables, the current college ready scores in use for each test <u>are **_not_** equivalent to one another</u>

Staff Recommendation for Discussion

- Select a College Ready score on one test or the other using whatever criteria serve the needs of South Carolina

- Use the Concordance tables from the 2018 study to identify the equivalent score on the other test

- Therefore, there are three feasible options on the table:
  1. Use ACT college ready benchmarks to set **ACT ≥ 21** as College-Ready, and concordance study to match with **SAT ≥ 1080**
  2. Keep current College-Ready criterion of **ACT ≥ 20**, and concordance study to match with **SAT ≥ 1040**
  3. Use SAT college ready benchmarks to set **SAT ≥ 1010** as College-Ready, and concordance study to match with **ACT ≥ 21**

During Discussion, Members Asked...

- How many students (*and by extension, their schools*) would be affected by the proposed change?

- What do district personnel say about this proposed change?

- How well do the ACT and SAT predict college success for SC graduates?

During Discussion, Members Asked…

- How many students (*and by extension, their schools*) would be affected by the proposed change?
  - **In 2023**, there were **59,540 HS Students** in the graduating cohort
    - **3794 students** (6%) had **ACT = 20** or **1010 < SAT < 1080**
    - *Of those* students, **173 students** (**0.3% of the cohort**) were not identified as college or career ready by any other criterion
  - **In 2022**, there were **58,534 HS Students** in the graduating cohort
    - **3912 students** (6%) had **ACT = 20** or **1010 < SAT < 1080**
    - *Of those* students, **151 students** (**0.3% of the cohort**) were not identified as college or career ready by any other criterion

During Discussion, Members Asked...

- What do district personnel say about this proposed change?
  - On Nov 16, I spoke with district Testing and Accountability Representatives about this question
  - Discussion revealed no clear consensus, likely driven by differing definitions of "College Ready"

Sent a Follow-Up Survey (25 responses)

There are several priorities that the EOC could consider in setting the College Ready criteria for the ACT and SAT. Please rank order the priorities below by entering a 1 next to the most important priority, a 2 next to the second most important priority, a 3 next to the next most important, and so on to the least important priority. You may rank as many or as few of the options as you like. If you do not enter a rank for a given priority, then you are suggesting that it is not important to consider that priority in the decision.

(Options are presented in random order so as not to influence the outcome.)

☐	College Ready expectations should be equally rigorous for all students, whether they take the ACT or the SAT.
☐	College Ready criteria should reflect the test developers' recommendations.
☐	College Ready criteria should indicate evidence that a student will be successful in college.
☐	College Ready criteria should be rigorous so that earning the designation represents a real accomplishment.
☐	College Ready criteria should be set so that all students have a realistic chance to obtain them with a reasonable degree of effort.
☐	College Ready criteria should not change too drastically from one year to the next.
☐	College Ready criteria should reflect the admissions requirements of colleges in SC.

Analysis of Rank-Order Item

Count of Respondents Priorities	Rank							
	1	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**Total**
College Ready criteria should be rigorous so that earning the designation represents a real accomplishment.	0	0	2	2	0	4	4	12
College Ready criteria should be set so that all students have a realistic chance to obtain them with a reasonable degree of effort.	2	5	3	2	1	2	0	15
College Ready criteria should indicate evidence that a student will be successful in college.	7	4	0	1	1	0	0	13
College Ready criteria should not change too drastically from one year to the next.	1	4	3	4	3	0	0	15
College Ready criteria should reflect the admissions requirements of colleges in SC.	8	3	2	1	1	0	1	16
College Ready criteria should reflect the test developers' recommendations.	0	1	1	0	3	2	4	11
College Ready expectations should be equally rigorous for all students, whether they take the ACT or the SAT.	1	0	5	2	3	2	0	13
Total	**19**	**17**	**16**	**12**	**12**	**10**	**9**	**95**

During Discussion, Members Asked...

- How well do the ACT and SAT predict college success for SC graduates?
  - Based on 4 years of data, ACT and the College Board have provided the following data:

Option:	1		2		3	
College Ready	ACT ≥ 21	SAT ≥ 1080	ACT ≥ 20	SAT ≥ 1040	ACT ≥ 19	SAT ≥ 1010
# Meeting	29,693	39,956	34,682	47,865	40,091	39,956
% Meeting	31.4%	39.7%	36.7%	47.5%	42.4%	39.7%
# Change	− 4,989	− 11,889	—	− 3,980	+ 5,409	+ 1,986
# Enrolled	24,292	34,394	27,818	40,591	31,544	45,107
% Enrolled	81.8%	86.1%	80.2%	84.8%	78.7%	83.8%
% Persist	Not Available	69.5%	Not Available	66.5%	Not Available	64.5%

Note: ACT results are provided by ACT based on n = 94,526 SC high school graduates from the classes on 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023 who took the ACT. SAT results are provided by the College Board based on n = 100,697 SC high school graduates from the classes on 2018, 2019, 2020, and 2021 who took the SAT. Persistence data were not available for students taking the ACT. Note that ACT and SAT samples are non-exclusive and may include students who took both tests.

2024 Retreat Update

Dana Yow