



Information for Parents

Academic Plans for Students: What Parents Need to Know

Each year South Carolina students in grades 3 through 8 take the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test, also known as PACT.

The PACT testing program measures each student's achievement levels in language arts, math, science, and social studies. PACT is part of South Carolina's comprehensive effort to set higher expectations, so that all students are well prepared for the future. PACT testing takes place in the spring, and results are generally given to parents in September.

State law requires that students who don't score at the basic level or higher on PACT must have an Academic Plan for Students.

An Academic Plan for Students (APS) is a blueprint for assistance the child will receive to promote maximum progress. School personnel, parents or guardians, and the student meet in a conference and, together, develop a written plan that contains specific learning opportunities to be provided by the school and at home.

Students receive Academic Plans for other reasons as well.

Every child who is repeating a grade level must have an academic plan. Other children may qualify for an APS as well if they are lacking skills needed to perform at their current grade level. The purpose of an Academic Plan is to help the child succeed by providing personalized help.

Your child's progress on the APS is assessed every grading period and at the end of the year.

If your child has an APS, he or she will receive academic assistance during the year. In the spring, the school will decide if he or she now has the skills needed to perform at grade level, or if more intensive help is needed. The student may be retained, that is, required to repeat his or her current grade. He or she may be promoted under special conditions, such as a requirement to attend a summer program or a yearlong comprehensive remediation program during the next school year.

At each step, including during summer programs, your child's progress will be monitored. Decisions about promotion, retention, and probation will be made based on multiple factors.

Decisions about retention and probation are never made solely on the basis of PACT scores. Multiple factors including schoolwork and teacher judgment are taken into consideration. Always, the goal of each decision is to provide your child with the best chance for success.

Parents may appeal decisions about mandatory summer school, mandatory comprehensive remediation, and retention by contacting their school principal who will outline the appeals process.

Richland School District Two must certify compliance with SDE guideline for Academic Plans for Students and the Education Accountability Act annually.