



South Carolina Public Charter School District

August 25, 2014

Dear Public Charter School Parents,

Welcome to the start of the 2014-2015 academic year. We are delighted that you have chosen for your child to attend a public charter school in the South Carolina Public Charter School District, a state-wide district.

The charter school district continues to grow in both its number of students and its number of schools but what has not changed is our commitment to providing tailor-made education solutions for every child that we have the honor to teach.

I am excited that we have nine new schools this year serving and meeting the needs of students all over the state. We have made several changes at the district office again to extend our support and meet the needs of our schools, parents and students.

As you may know, our schools are required by law to conduct the same rigorous student testing as all of the other public schools in the state, and we embrace this challenge with enthusiasm and with the highest standards of professional behavior. I hope that you will take a moment to review the attached sheet, which outlines the student testing that our school conducts as public schools in South Carolina.

According to Section 59-40-50 (5) of the South Carolina Charter School Act, which pertains to teacher certification and flexibility, charter schools (non-conversion schools) must, at a minimum, have 75% of their core classes taught by appropriately certified and highly qualified teachers. In addition, the law provides flexibility for charter schools to allow up to 25% of its core courses to be taught by teachers who are noncertified or who are certified, but are not highly qualified in the subject area(s) to which they teach. As per the South Carolina Department of Education, Office of Federal and State Accountability, these teachers need to **demonstrate content knowledge** for each core class to which they are the teacher of record. If content knowledge can be demonstrated, the teacher is considered, "allowable to teach that particular course."

If your child is taught by someone who is not highly qualified for more than 20 consecutive days, even though he or she might possess a baccalaureate or graduate degree in the subject he or she was hired to teach, the Elementary Secondary Education Act (ESEA), requires that your child's school notify you in writing of this. Information regarding the Parent's Right to Know can be found at:

<http://ed.sc.gov/agency/ac/Federal-and-State-Accountability/Title-II/ParentsRighttoKnowRequirement.cfm>.

In addition, the policies and procedures in our district ensure that all children with disabilities who are in need of special education and related services are identified, located, and evaluated, regardless of the severity of the disability in question. If you have any questions regarding child find procedures, please contact the special education coordinator at your child's school. Additionally, our district office staff is available to assist you.

As we start this new school year, I hope that you will take a moment to access our district website, which is www.sccharter.org. There you can find a wealth of interesting and useful information that I hope will be helpful for you as the year progresses.

We share something important in common: we both want the very best from our public schools. I look forward to our continued collaboration toward educating and mentoring your child with the highest expectations for success.

Please do not hesitate to call me at (803) 734-8322 or email me at wbrazell@sccharter.org if I can answer any questions about charter schools in South Carolina.

Regards,

Wayne Brazell, Ph. D.
Superintendent

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SCPCSD's mission is to improve learning and increase learning opportunities in South Carolina through the creations of innovative, high quality charter schools. Ultimately, we strive to assist South Carolina in achieving academic excellence.

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