

# Richland County School District One Summary Report



## 2005 Results of the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests (PACT)

Office of Research and Evaluation

September 2005

In Spring 2005, Richland District One participated in the seventh operational administration of South Carolina's Palmetto Achievement Challenge Tests (PACT). The tests were given statewide to all students in grades 3 through 8. PACT has historically assessed student achievement on a number of objectives in the subjects of English/Language Arts (ELA) and Mathematics but additionally assessed students in Science and Social Studies since Spring 2003.

PACT assessments are **criterion-referenced tests**, meaning that student scores are compared to external criteria known as standards. PACT standards were set based on the judgments of South Carolina teachers and curriculum experts. In each subject tested, students are placed into one of four score categories known as performance levels including Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced. District and state test results are reported in terms of the percentage of students who scored at each performance level. The general definitions of the performance levels are described below.

**Below Basic** – Minimum expectations for student performance have not been met. The student is not prepared for work at the next grade.

**Basic** – Minimum expectations for student performance have been met. The student is minimally prepared for work at the next grade.

**Proficient** – Expectations for student performance have been met. The student is well prepared for work at the next grade.

**Advanced** – Expectations for student performance have been exceeded. The student is very well prepared for work at the next grade.

## Richland District One PACT 2005 Results By Grade

The percentages of students in grades 3 through 8 with 2005 PACT score levels of Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, and Advanced in ELA and Mathematics are presented in Table 1. The highest percentage of students scoring Proficient and Advanced occurred for third grade students taking the ELA test (47%). Fourth grade students had the highest percentage scoring Proficient and Advanced in Mathematics (31%). For the ELA test, the grade showing the largest percentage of students performing Below Basic was sixth grade (44%). In Mathematics, eighth grade students had the highest percentages of students with Below Basic performance (47%) compared with the other grades.

**Table 1**  
**Richland District One PACT 2005 ELA and Mathematics Results by Grade**

Grade	English/Language Arts					Mathematics				
	% BB	% B	% P	% A	% P & A	% BB	% B	% P	% A	% P & A
3	20	33	40	8	47	29	50	15	6	21
4	24	44	40	3	31	30	39	21	10	31
5	31	46	29	1	23	34	43	13	10	22
6	44	34	22	6	22	32	40	19	10	28
7	34	47	16	2	19	40	36	14	10	24
8	33	42	17	6	25	47	36	11	7	18

Note 1: BB=Below Basic, B=Basic, P=Proficient, A=Advanced

Note 2: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Note 3: Including students who took on and off grade level tests and who were enrolled by the 45<sup>th</sup> day

Table 2 displays the percentages of students by grade and performance level on the Science and Social Studies sections of PACT 2005. The best performances in these two subjects when comparing percentages of students scoring Proficient and Advanced occurred in fourth and sixth grade Science (19% each) and sixth grade Social Studies (26%). Fifth grade students demonstrated the poorest performance with the highest percentages of students scoring Below Basic in Science (57%) and seventh graders showed the poorest performance in Social Studies (53%).

**Table 2**  
**Richland District One PACT 2005 Science and Social Studies Results by Grade**

Grade	Science					Social Studies				
	% BB	% B	% P	% A	% P & A	% BB	% B	% P	% A	% P & A
3	50	35	12	4	16	35	45	13	6	20
4	50	32	12	7	19	32	49	14	6	20
5	57	28	7	8	15	52	34	18	7	14
6	55	26	10	9	19	41	33	12	13	26
7	49	34	9	9	17	53	33	8	7	15
8	52	31	9	9	17	48	37	9	7	16

Note 1: BB=Below Basic, B=Basic, P=Proficient, A=Advanced

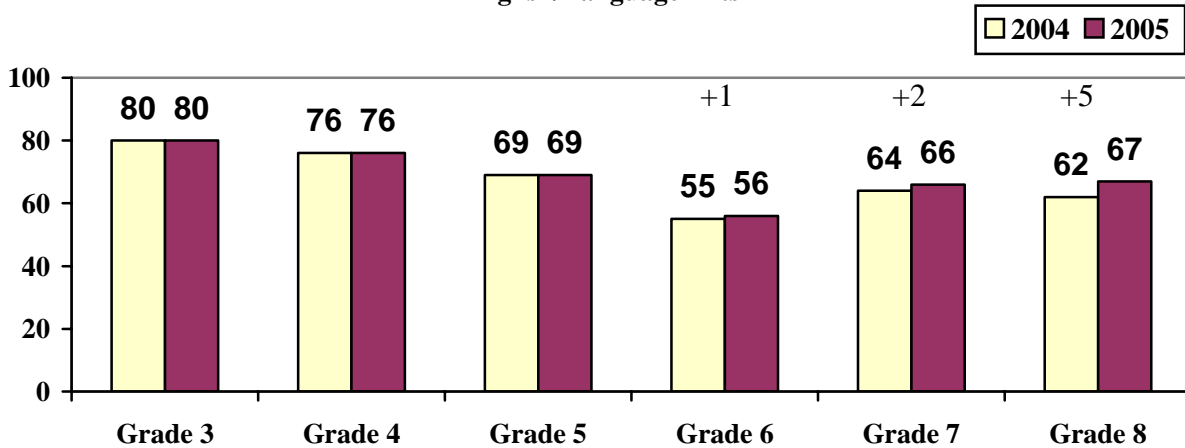
Note 2: Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.

Note 3: Including students who took on and off grade level tests and who were enrolled by the 45<sup>th</sup> day

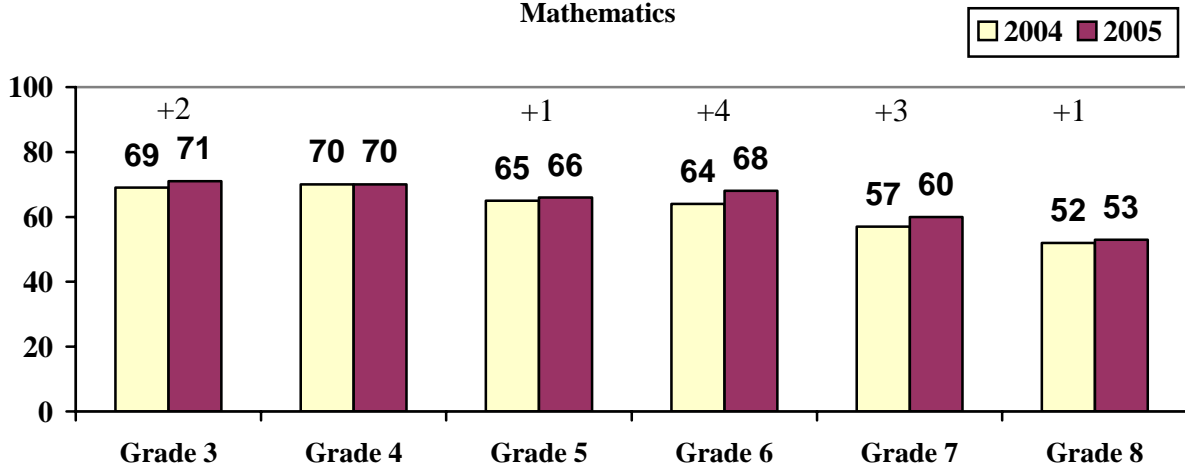
## Comparison of Richland District One's 2004 and 2005 PACT Percent Basic and Above Results in Four Subject Areas by Grade

The percentages of students in grades 3 through 8 who performed at the Basic level or above for PACT 2004 and 2005 as well as the differences between the years are presented for ELA in Chart 1, Mathematics in Chart 2, Science in Chart 3, and Social Studies in Chart 4. Notable improvements were made in 2005 PACT Mathematics scores compared to 2004 at almost every grade level with the greatest improvement by sixth grade students (+4%) and the least improvement by fourth grade students (0%). The percentage of students who performed at the Basic level or higher on ELA remained fairly consistent for grades 3 to 5. Notable improvement was evidenced in eighth grade with an increase of five percentage points.

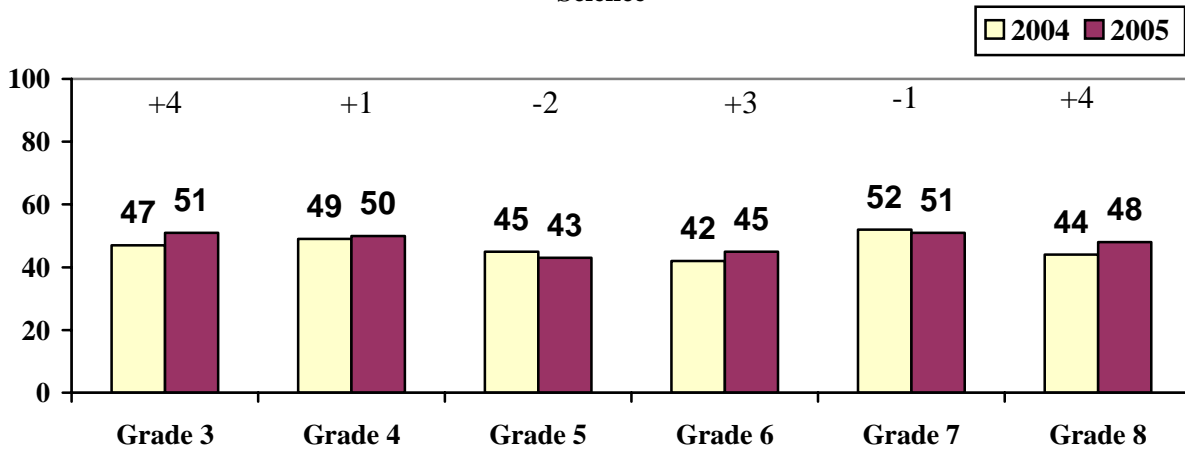
**Chart 1**  
**District PACT 2004 and 2005 Percent Basic and Above Results By Grade**  
**English/Language Arts**



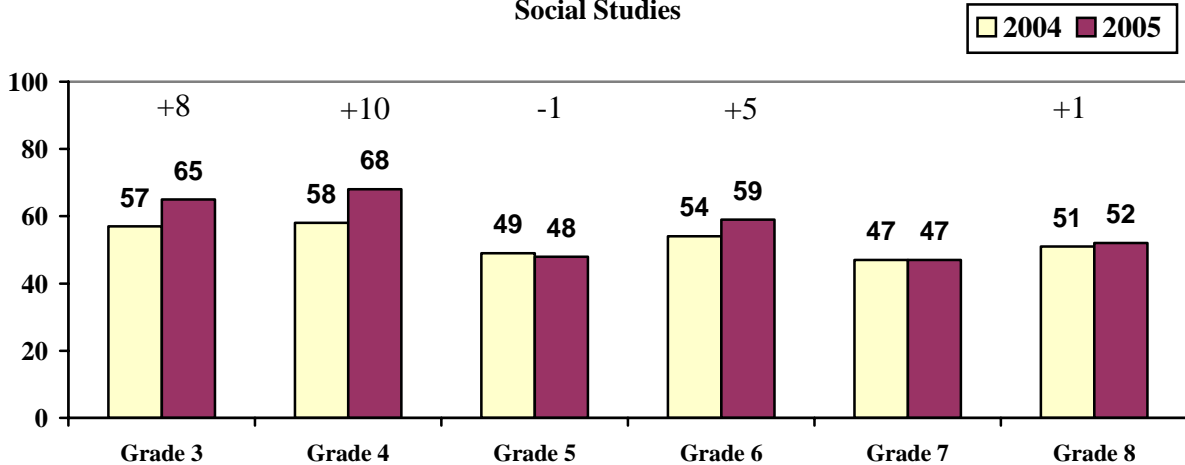
**Chart 2**  
**District PACT 2004 and 2005 Percent Basic and Above Results By Grade**  
**Mathematics**



**Chart 3**  
**District PACT 2004 and 2005 Percent Basic and Above Results By Grade**  
**Science**



**Chart 4**  
**District PACT 2004 and 2005 Percent Basic and Above Results By Grade**  
**Social Studies**



Notable improvements were made in 2005 PACT Science scores compared to 2004 at grades 3, 4, 6, and 8. The largest gain was made in grades 3 and 8 (+4% each). Great improvement was shown in social studies especially in grade 4 with a 10-point increase in the percent of students performing Basic or better, followed by an eight-point increase in grade 3.

**Comparison by Grade of 2004-2005 PACT Percent Basic and Above Differences  
in Four Subject Areas for Richland District One and State**

Because PACT is only used in South Carolina, national comparisons are not available. The following two tables provide a comparison of the differences in percentages of students performing at levels of Basic and above for PACT 2004 and 2005 ELA and Mathematics tests (Table 3) and Science and Social Studies (Table 4) between Richland District One and the state of South Carolina.

In terms of the 24 categories (four areas X six grades tested) that PACT assessed, Richland One made improvements over 2004 in 12 categories, maintained the same levels as in 2004 for seven categories, and performed less well for five categories when compared to 2004. The state of South Carolina exceeded their 2004 performance in 9 categories, maintained at the same level as in 2004 for eight categories, and performed less well for seven categories when compared to 2004.

Richland District One's gains exceeded the state gains in nine categories: grade 8 ELA, Math for grades 3, 6, and 7, Science for grades 4 and 8, and Social Studies for grades 4, 6 and 8. Detailed reports of individual school test scores are available at the South Carolina Department of Education's website at <http://www.sde.state.sc.us/tracks/testscores/pact/2005/>.

**Table 3  
Differences in PACT 2004 and 2005 Percentages Scoring Basic and Above  
for Richland District One and State in ELA and Mathematics**

Grade	English/Language Arts		Mathematics	
	Richland District One	State	Richland District One	State
3	0	+1	+1	0
4	-2	-1	-1	-1
5	0	0	0	-1
6	0	0	+3	+2
7	0	0	+3	0
8	+4	+2	0	-2

Note 1: Including students who took on-grade level tests only regardless of their length of enrollment

**Table 4  
Differences in PACT 2004 and 2005 Percentages Scoring Basic and Above  
for Richland District One and State in Science and Social Studies**

Grade	Science		Social Studies	
	Richland District One	State	Richland District One	State
3	+2	+4	+7	+9
4	+1	0	+9	+6
5	-3	-3	-2	0
6	+1	+2	+3	0
7	-4	-1	0	-1
8	+4	+1	+4	+2

Note 1: Including students who took on-grade level tests only regardless of their length of enrollment