

March 19, 2009

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Our School Report Card that was recently released by the State Department of Education. For 2007-08, Greenville Technical Charter High School achieved an Absolute Rating of **Excellent** and a Growth Rating of **Excellent**.

- The Absolute Rating is based on the percentages of students on first attempt passing the high school exit exam (High School Assessment Program or HASP), longitudinal HASP pass rate, percent passing scores on End-of-Course tests, and graduation rate. These results are measured against target levels of performance. Target levels increase every year. This means that it is more difficult for a school to achieve an Excellent, Good or Average rating. The impact of the higher scoring requirements is cumulative over time. Also, a school's Absolute Rating is dropped one rating if the school has an Excellent or Good Absolute Rating and does not meet its AYP performance target for All Students for either math or English/Language Arts. Our school's Absolute rating **was not** impacted by our AYP rating.
- The Growth Rating indicates the progress of achievement scores and graduation rates for different groups of students from one year to the next.
- The Report Card includes our status toward meeting the Federal requirements of Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) as defined by the No Child Left Behind Act. The South Carolina School Report and AYP results can be confusing because a school or school district can score well on the Report Card and not achieve AYP. Why? Absolute and Growth ratings, established by the State, are based on student achievement at all levels (Below Basic or 1 through Advanced or 5) while AYP is based on student achievement at the two highest levels – Proficient and Advanced.

AYP targets for percentages of students scoring Proficient or Advanced in each content area are established by the state and increase every three years through the year 2014 when 100 percent of students are expected to score Proficient or above. South Carolina's standards are among the toughest in the nation. If just one student group in a school or school fails to meet one objective in a given year, the school or district fails to meet AYP. Also, high schools must annually achieve an 88.3% student graduation rate, meet or exceed last year's graduation rate, or meet or exceed its three-year average graduation rate.

I encourage you to study our School Report Card and to use its release as an opportunity to be more involved with your child's education and our school. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to call me. I look forward to working with you to ensure that our school continues to improve.

Sincerely,

W. Fred Crawford
Principal