FLORENCE 3 SCHOOL DISTRICT

A PREMIER DISTRICT OF **CHOICE**





Ensuring Our Students Are College and/or Career Ready and Are Productive and Responsible Members of Society

Truancy

- Counts only unexcused absences
- Emphasizes compliance
- Relies on legal & administrative solutions



Chronic Absence

- Counts all absences: **excused,** unexcused, & suspensions
- Emphasizes academic impact of missed days
- Uses community-based, positive strategies

Chronic Absenteeism =
Missing ≥10% of Enrolled Days

Current Data by School

	Truant Students 26-27	Truant Students 25-26	Chronic Absenteeism Percentage 26-27	Chronic Absenteeism Percentage 25-26
LCECC	4	28	20% - 67	26%
MSE	13	36	16% - 40	15%
JCLES	28	49	20% - 79	16%
OMS	7	19	20% - 29	34%
SES	6	4	12% - 42	14%
REMJH	12	54	31% - 62	38%
JPT	9	53	18% - 60	16%
LCHS	15	10	26% - 116	39%
Total	97	253	20% -495	25%

Data as of 10/30/2026

Actions



- Each school has an attendance team
  - Focus on chronic absenteeism & truancy
  - Contact parents and work to find solutions
- Schools have competitions and incentives for good attendance
- District and schools continue to educate parents on the importance of good attendance

Enrollment Update 2026-2027

Schools	45th - Enrollment	Current Enrollment
LCECC	329	332
MSE	252	251
JCLES	388	389
SES	352	350
OMS	146	146
REMJH	201	196
JPT	337	333
LCHS	449	444
District Total	2454	2441

2025-2026 135th day report = 2602

10 Year Enrollment

District Totals

School	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Ronald E. McNair Jr. High School	553	547	505	382	338	310	294	212	267	261	241
Lake City High School	899	943	864	814	757	708	596	569	520	474	489
Lake City Early Childhood Center	495	448	400	391	379	391	375	386	390	375	364
Main Street Elementary School	420	398	362	413	390	366	347	334	313	327	253
J. Paul Truluck Intermediate School	293	261	264	253	359	419	469	497	391	368	339
J. C. Lynch Elementary School	428	424	396	440	429	397	381	367	386	379	380
Olanta Elementary School	246	242	234	218	226	260	237	217	199	185	161
Scranton Elementary School	382	381	437	468	431	386	385	360	388	378	384
District Totals	3716	3644	3462	3379	3309	3237	3084	2942	2854	2747	2611

Middle and High School Totals

School	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Ronald E. McNair Jr. High School	553	547	505	382	338	310	294	212	267	261	241
Lake City High School	899	943	864	814	757	708	596	569	520	474	489
J. Paul Truluck Magnet School	293	261	264	253	359	419	469	497	391	368	339
District Totals	1745	1751	1633	1449	1454	1437	1359	1278	1178	1103	1069

Elementary Schools Total

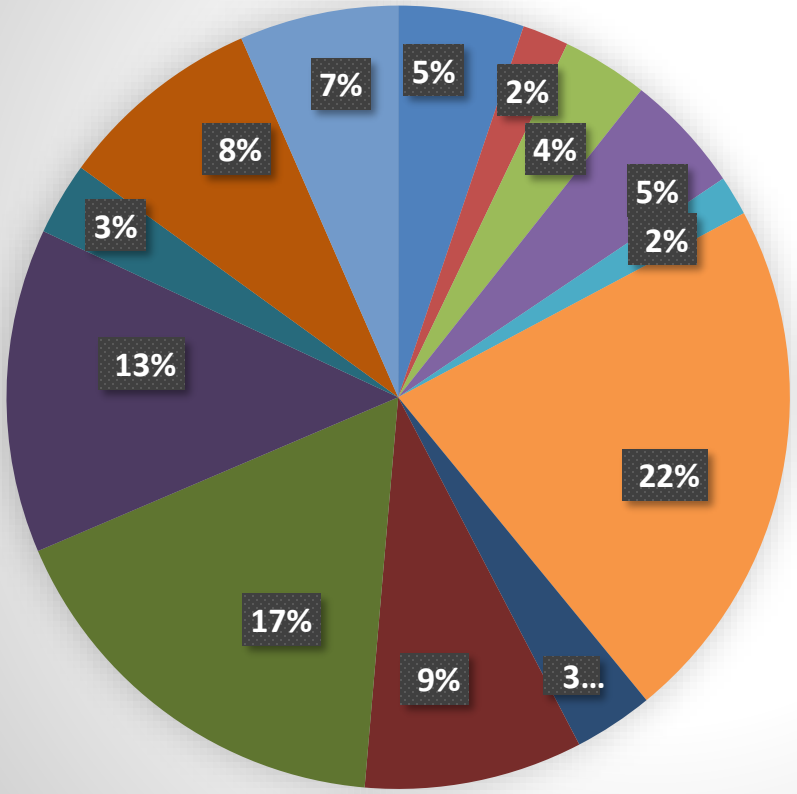
School	2015-2016	2016-2017	2017-2018	2018-2019	2019-2020	2020-2021	2021-2022	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026
Lake City Early Childhood Center	495	448	400	391	379	391	375	386	390	375	364
Main Street Elementary School	420	398	362	413	390	366	347	334	313	327	253
J. C. Lynch Elementary School	428	424	396	440	429	397	381	367	386	379	380
Olanta Elementary School	246	242	234	218	226	260	237	217	199	185	161
Scranton Elementary School	382	381	437	468	431	386	385	360	388	378	384
District Totals	1971	1893	1829	1930	1855	1800	1725	1664	1676	1644	1542

Number of Students Leaving the District

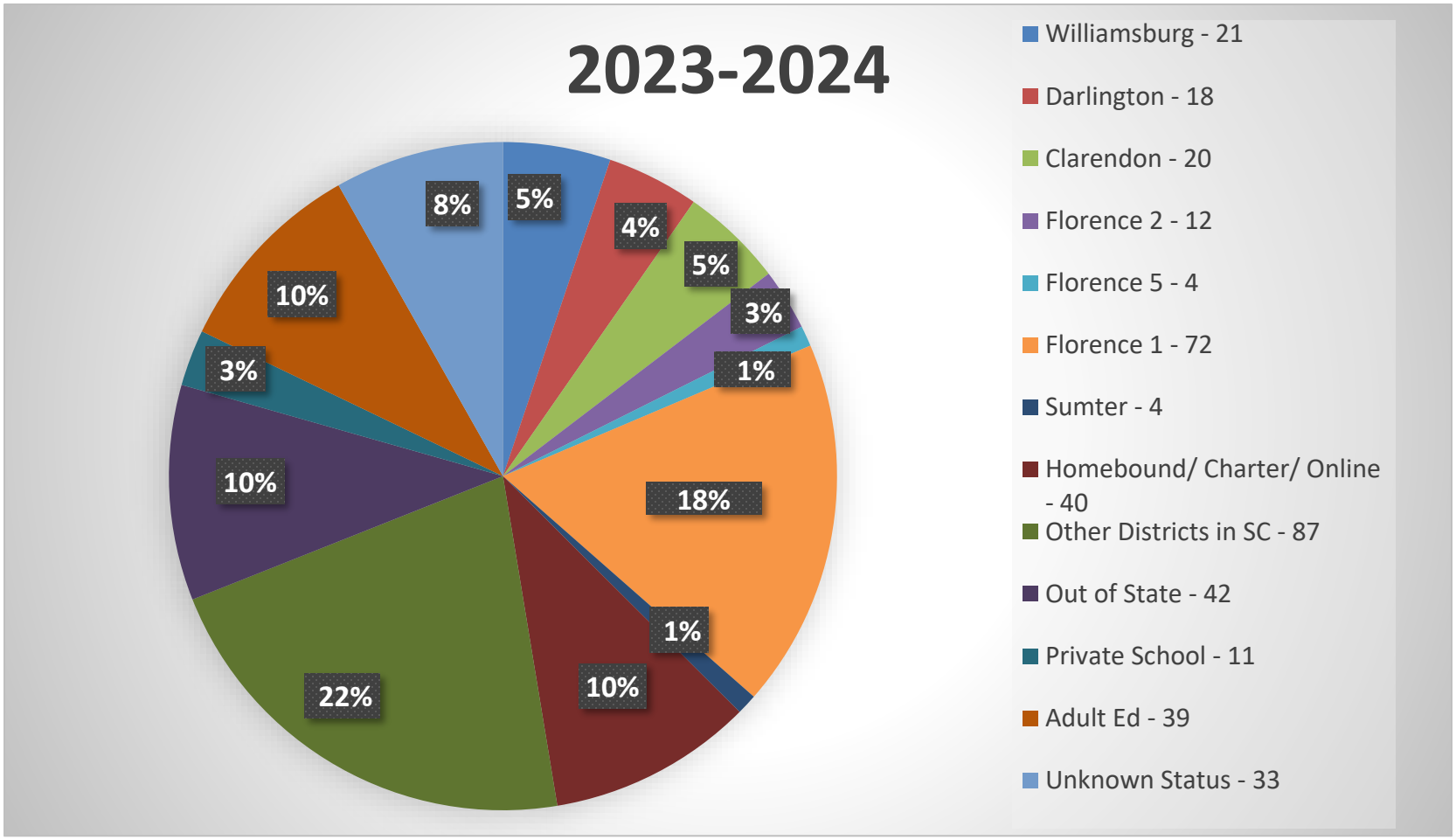
Grades	2022-2023	2023-2024	2024-2025	2025-2026	2026-2027
4K	8	11	12	7	13
5K	27	37	19	26	23
1st grade	36	24	26	32	22
2nd grade	19	29	43	34	37
3rd grade	28	33	28	46	34
4th grade	26	30	56	51	24
5th grade	25	28	26	46	22
6th grade	25	18	31	23	21
7th grade	25	42	48	45	48
8th grade	32	25	24	19	18
9th grade	61	59	42	31	25
10th grade	30	35	35	29	26
11th grade	16	24	21	24	19
12th grade	10	11	22	12	8
Total	368	406	433	425	341*

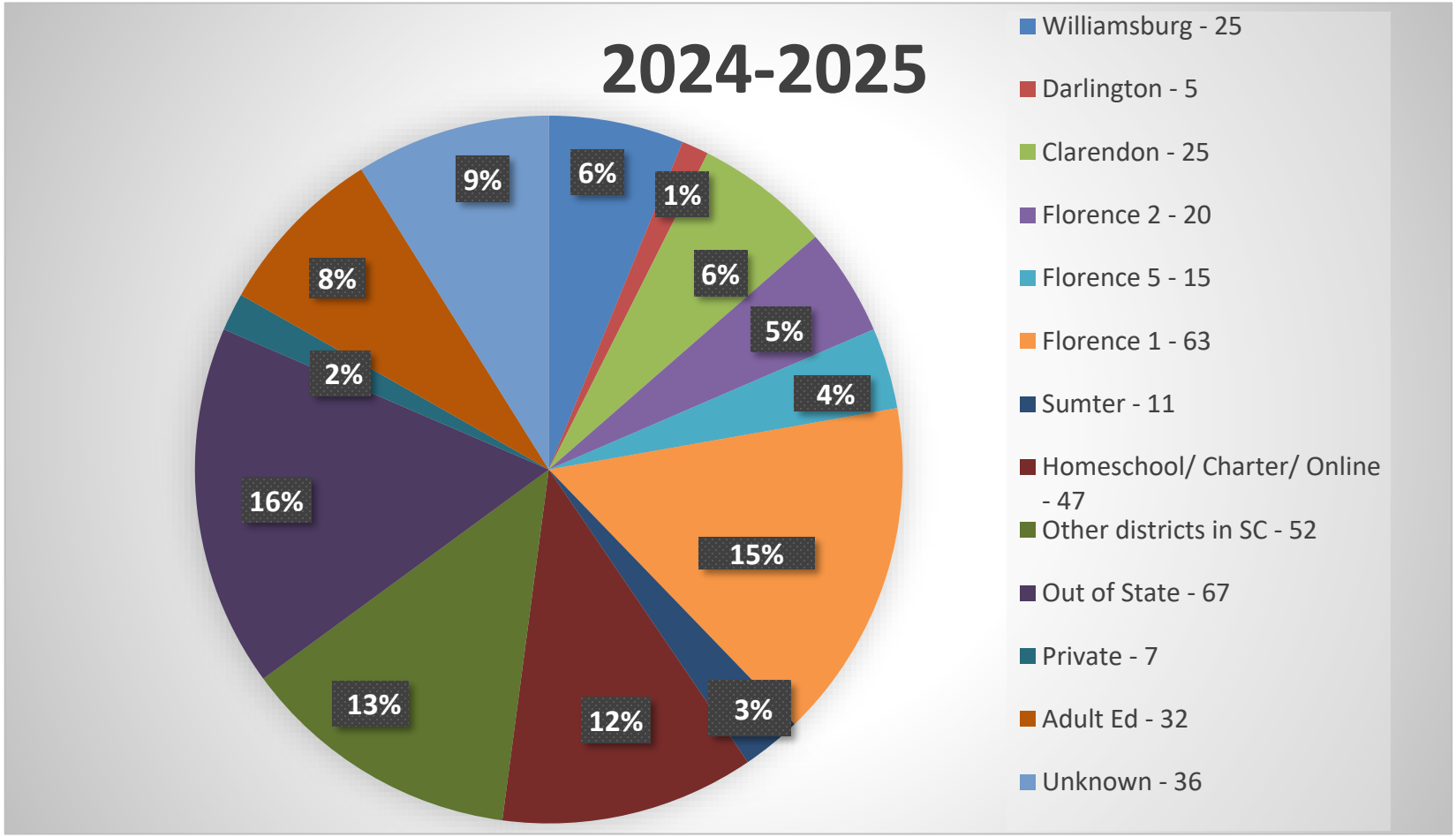
* As of 10/30/2026

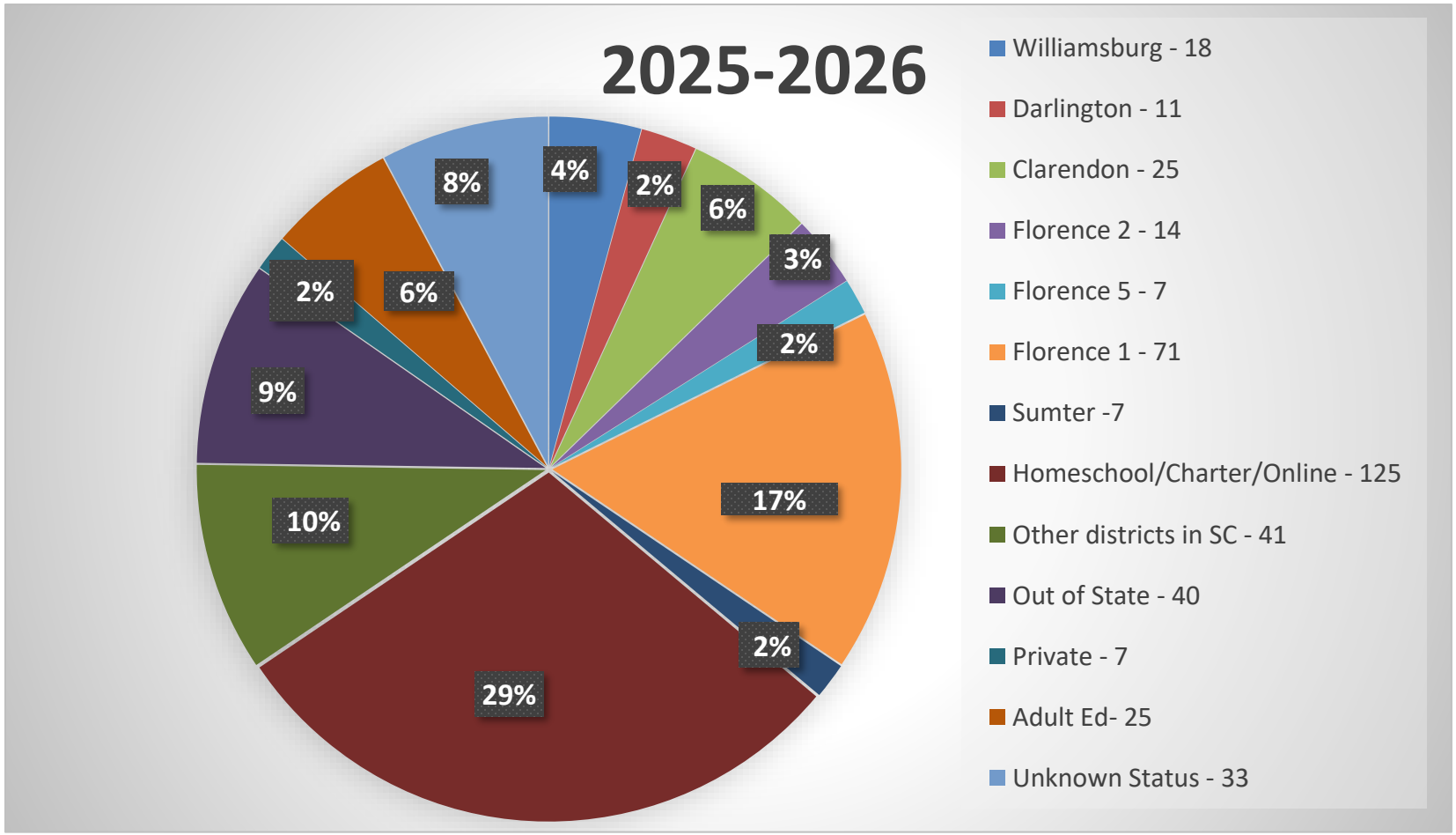
2022-2023

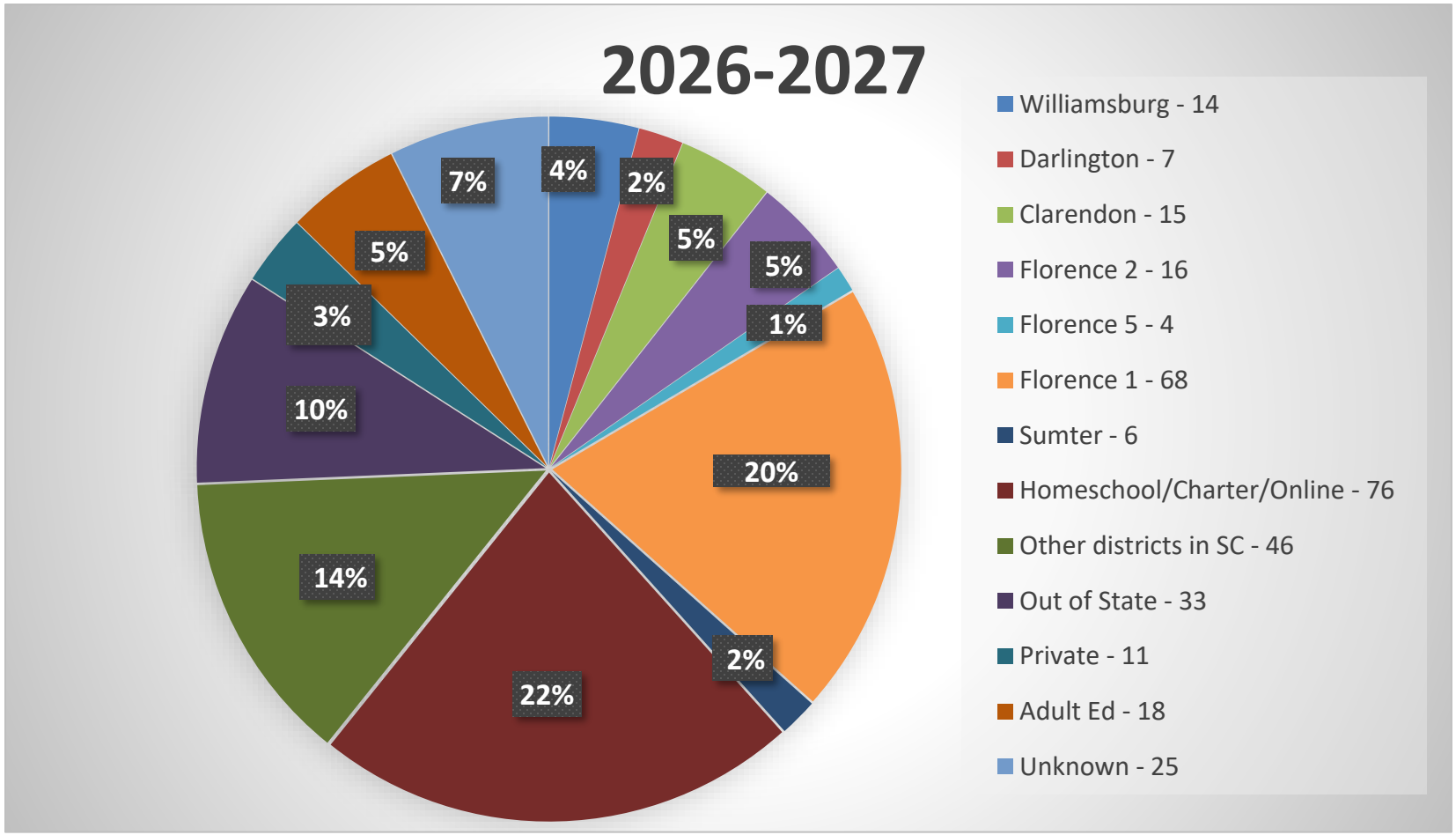


- Williamsburg - 19
- Darlington - 7
- Clarendon - 13
- Florence 2 - 18
- Florence 5 - 6
- Florence 1 - 80
- Sumter - 12
- Homeschool/ Charter/ Online - 33
- Other Districts in SC - 63
- Out of State - 49
- Private School - 11
- Unknown Status - 31
- Adult Ed - 24


2023-2024
5%
4%
5%
3%
1%
18%
1%
10%
22%
10%
3%
10%
8%
Williamsburg - 21
Darlington - 18
Clarendon - 20
Florence 2 - 12
Florence 5 - 4
Florence 1 - 72
Sumter - 4
Homebound/ Charter/ Online - 40
Other Districts in SC - 87
Out of State - 42
Private School - 11
Adult Ed - 39
Unknown Status - 33


2024-2025
6%
1%
6%
5%
4%
15%
3%
12%
13%
16%
2%
8%
9%
Williamsburg - 25
Darlington - 5
Clarendon - 25
Florence 2 - 20
Florence 5 - 15
Florence 1 - 63
Sumter - 11
Homeschool/ Charter/ Online - 47
Other districts in SC - 52
Out of State - 67
Private - 7
Adult Ed - 32
Unknown - 36


2025-2026
4%
2%
6%
3%
2%
17%
2%
29%
10%
9%
2%
6%
8%
Williamsburg - 18
Darlington - 11
Clarendon - 25
Florence 2 - 14
Florence 5 - 7
Florence 1 - 71
Sumter -7
Homeschool/Charter/Online - 125
Other districts in SC - 41
Out of State - 40
Private - 7
Adult Ed- 25
Unknown Status - 33



Data as of 10/30/2026

Policy – ACE Revision

SERVICE ANIMALS (PUBLIC)

Added:

- alerting an individual with diabetes of blood sugar levels

- ~~*Chief Operations Officer*~~ *Superintendent's Designee*

Policy – EEA Revision

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

Added:

- No bus will operate in excess of 45 miles per hour, except when traveling on a highway with a posted speed limit above 55 miles per hour, or when traveling on an interstate or state primary highway to and from special events with written authorization from the SCDE. In no event will buses exceed 55 miles per hour.

Legal References:

- S.C. State Board of Education Regulations:
  - R43-80 - Operation of public student transportation services.
  - South Carolina School Bus Driver Training Handbook (2023).

Policy – IHAL Revision

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION

Added:

Students will not be penalized for their inability to participate in instruction on gender, sexuality, or other sensitive moral topics where accommodations have been granted based on the sincerely held religious beliefs of the students' parent/guardian.

Legal References:

Federal Cases:

- Wood v. Arnold, 915 F.3d 308 (4th Cir. 2019).
- *Mahmoud v. Taylor,* 606 U.S. 522 (2025).

Policy – IJ Revision

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

- Instructional materials are all materials designed for use by students and their teachers as a learning resource. These materials include any collection of books or materials purchased, acquired, or kept on district property by professional staff. They may be printed or non-printed and may include books, audiovisual/video media materials, and kits.

- The professional staff will have primary responsibility for the selection of instructional materials and resources. They will seek the involvement of parents/legal guardians and other community members in selecting instructional materials. The selection, retention, and continued use of instructional materials will follow State Board of Education regulations and other legal requirements. All materials will be age and developmentally appropriate, and support the schools' educational philosophy, goals, and objectives.

Policy – IJ Revision

INSTRUCTIONAL RESOURCES AND MATERIALS

Added:

For purposed of this policy, *age and developmentally appropriate* means topics, messages, materials, and teaching methods suitable to particular ages or age groups of children and adolescents, based on developing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral capacity typical for the age or age group. Age and developmentally appropriate instructional materials do not include materials that contain descriptions or visual depictions of sexual conduct.

The board will handle challenges to materials as provided in policy KEC, *Public Concerns and Complaints about Instructional Resources.* Challenges to instructional materials based on sincerely held religious beliefs will be handles in accordance with policy IMBC, *Religious-Based Exemptions.*

The district will maintain a complete and up-to-date list or catalog of all instructional materials in Destiny Classroom Library Manager (DCLM). This list or catalog will be consistently updated and readily available to parents/legal guardians upon request.

Legal References

B. S.C. State Board of Education Regulations:

1. R 43-70 – Textbook adoption.
2. R 43-71 – Free textbooks.
3. R 43-170-Uniform Procedure for Selection or Reconsideration of Instructional Materials

Policy – JLCDD Revision

SERVICE ANIMALS (STUDENTS)

Added:

- alerting an individual with diabetes of blood sugar levels

New Policy – EBCA
CARDIAC EMERGENCIES

2nd Reading

Florence School District Three recognizes that from time to time it may become necessary for school personnel to promptly intervene when a student or staff member is experiencing a sudden cardiac or life-threatening emergency to help sustain life until emergency medical services arrive on scene.

The superintendent or is/her designee will develop a Cardiac Emergency Response Plan (CERP) to ensure the proper handling of cardiac or similar life-threatening emergencies occurring on school grounds or during school-sponsored athletic practices or events.

The CERP will include the criteria established the state board of education and will include, at a minimum, the following:

- a designated school-level cardiac emergency response team
- procedures for activating the cardiac emergency response team
- placement and routine maintenance of automated external defibrillators (AEDs) within the district schools and at each off site athletic event
- ongoing CPR and AED training for designated staff
- periodic CERP practice drills
- annual review and evaluation of the CERP

New Policy – EBCA
CARDIAC EMERGENCIES

2nd Reading

Automated External Defibrillators

An AED is a portable electronic device designed to deliver a predetermined electrical shock through the chest wall to the heart of an individual experiencing life-threatening cardiac arrhythmia. It is capable of recognizing the presence or absence of ventricular fibrillation (VF) and is capable of determining if defibrillation should be performed. The AED will guide the user with audible or visual prompts and does not require the user to employ any discretion or judgement in its use. It should be applied only to individuals who are unconscious, not breathing formally, and showing no signs of circulation.

The use of AEDs in the district's schools will follow district guidelines developed to meet the requirements of the South Carolina Automated External Defibrillator Act and the State Board of Education.

- Legal References:
-
- S.C. Code of Laws, 1976, as amended:
  - Section 44-76-10, et seq. – Automated External Defibrillator Act.
  - Section 59-17-155 – Automated External Defibrillator programs in high schools.
  - Section 59-17-165 – Smart Heart Act, cardiac response plans in schools.

New Policy – DIG
WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTIONS

1st Reading

The district is committed to maintaining an environment that fosters high standards of professional ethics. This includes preventing fraud, waste, and abuse in its programs and operations by practicing honesty and integrity in fulfilling employment responsibilities. To maintain this environment, staff members are responsible for preventing and detecting mismanagement of federal funds.

Definitions:

- Report
- Wrongdoing

Reporting

Protections

False Reports

Confidentiality

New Policy – IMBC
RELIGIOUS-BASED EXEMPTIONS

1st Reading

The district is committed to meeting the educational needs of all student while respecting the religious beliefs and values of its students and their families. The district serves students from a wide range of backgrounds, and it is the responsibility of the board, teachers, and administrators to balance the district's educational goals and current statewide instructional standards with sensitivity of the sincerely held religious beliefs of its students and their parent/legal guardians.

Objection To Materials

While students are expected to participate in all required instructional programs and activities, the board recognizes that there may be instances in which a student and/or their parent/legal guardian object to a specific classroom discussion, assigned reading, or activity. It is the policy of Florence School District Three to provide a process for parents/legal guardians to request that their child be excused from specific classroom discussions, assigned readings, or activities that the parent/legal guardian believes are contrary to their sincerely held religious beliefs.

Parents/legal guardian will be notified in advance of upcoming instruction, classroom discussions, activities, and assigned readings involving gender identity, sexual orientation, or related moral topics. Such notice will be provided through one or more of the following methods:

- class syllabi distributed within the first five days of each semester.
- periodic classroom updates via school/class websites that preview upcoming instructional materials containing sensitive content
- maintain an updated catalog of all books and materials in Destiny Classroom Library Manager (DCLM)
- written notice

New Policy – IMBC RELIGIOUS-BASED EXEMPTIONS

1st Reading

- Inspection and review of instructional materials
- Opt-out requests
- Training
- Escalation Protocol
- Legal References:
  - Federal Cases: *Mahmoud v. Taylor,* 606 U.S. 522 (2025).
  - S.C. States Board of Education Regulations: R 43-170- Uniform Procedure for Selection or Reconsideration of Instructional Materials

RELIGIOUS-BASED EXEMPTIONS FORM

Purpose: This form allows parents or legal guardian to request that their child be excused from participation in specific mandatory instruction that conflicts with the family's sincerely held religious beliefs, in accordance with *Mahmoud v. Taylor (*U.S. Supreme Court, 2025) and applicable South Carolina law.

Section 1: Parent/Guardian Statement

As the parent or legal guardian of _____, I have identified the following mandatory instruction as contrary to our sincerely held religious beliefs and a burden on our family's religious exercise and beliefs. Accordingly. I request that the student(s) named herein be excused from participation in such instruction.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

Parent/Guardian Name (Print): _____

Grade/Class: _____ School: _____

Residential Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

Section 2: Description of Instruction or Material

Please list the specific instructional activity, book, video, or materials that conflict with your family's sincerely held religious beliefs. Include book titles, page numbers, lessons, etc. For portions of materials, please indicate page numbers or sections of the material, if known. Please identify the class in which the material(s) are available, and the name of the teacher whose class the materials are available. If specific information about the lesson, materials, or portions thereof is not known, please contact your student's teacher for additional information that may assist you in determining and specifying your objection.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

District Use Only

Received by Signature: _____

Received by Print Name & Title: _____

Date Received: _____

Notes/Action Taken: _____

_____

_____

This opt-out is different from and does not alter or diminish the opt-out right described in South Carolina Code section 59-32-50 (relating to certain aspects of comprehensive health education program classes) or in other statuary or regulatory sections.

New Policy – IJND

1st Reading

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESPONSIBLE USE

- The board recognizes that artificial intelligence (AI) can be valuable educational tool that can enrich the district's instructional program by providing students with innovative and effective learning experiences. With the advancement of AI and its integration into everyday life, the board recognizes the importance of equipping students with skills to use AI in a responsible and ethical manner.

- To promote the continued improvement and responsible use of technology to enhance the educational experience of the district's students, the use of AI programs in the day-to-day curriculum and instruction will be determined by the classroom teacher in accordance with district policy. The district reserves the right to review and monitor teacher use of AI in the day-to-day curriculum and instruction.

1st Reading

New Policy – IJND

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESPONSIBLE USE

- The use of AI programs in the instructional program will be limited to educational purposes approved by the district and will comply with applicable state and federal laws, including, but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy ACT (FERPA), the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the Children's Online Privacy Protection ACT (COPPA), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The district reserves the right to monitor school-issued devices capable of accessing AI programs to ensure compliance with this policy and applicable state and federal laws.

- The district will inform staff members, students, and parents/legal guardians of the district's procedures regarding this policy by posting them on the district website and making them available for review at the district office

- AI programs will be used in a manner consistent with district policy, *IJNDB, Use of Technology Resources in Instruction.*

New Policy – IJND

1st Reading

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RESPONSIBLE USE

- Definitions:
  - Artificial Intelligence
  - Generative Artificial Intelligence
  - Open-source Artificial Intelligence
  - Closed AI
  - Personally identified information
  - Deep Fake
- Accessibility
- Acceptable Uses
  - In the classroom
  - Outside the classroom
  - Supporting Accommodations
- Prohibited Uses
  - Academic Dishonesty
  - Privacy violations
  - Creation of deepfakes
  - Discrimination, bullying, harassment, and accessing explicit material
  - Copyright
- Discipline and Reporting
- Warrantied/Indemnification

New Policy – GBERB

1st Reading

STAFF USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

The Florence School District Three recognizes that artificial intelligence (AI) can be a valuable educational tool that can enrich the district's instructional program by providing staff members and students with innovative and effective learning experiences. With the advancement of AI and its integrations into daily life, the district also recognizes the importance of providing guidance to staff members on the responsible and ethical use of AI programs. For purposes of this policy, staff members include professional and support staff members.

The use of AI programs in the instructional program will be limited to purposes approved by the district and will comply with applicable state and federal laws, including, but not limited to, the Family Educational Rights and Privacy ACT (FERPA), the Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), the Children's Online Privacy Protection ACT (COPPA), and the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA).

The district will inform staff members of its policy and procedures for enforcing this policy by posting them on the district website and making them available for review at the district office.

AI programs will be used in a manner consistent with district policy, *GBEE, Internet and Electronic Communications,* and IJNDB, *Use of Technology Resources in Instruction.*

New Policy – GBERB

1st Reading

STAFF USE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

- Definitions:
  - Artificial Intelligence
  - Generative Artificial Intelligence
  - Open-source Artificial Intelligence
  - Closed AI
  - Personally identified information
  - Deep Fake
- Accessibility
- Acceptable Uses
  - Information validation
  - Student use
  - Detection of academic dishonesty
- Prohibited Uses
  - Matters of professional judgement
  - Academic dishonesty
  - Copyright
  - Privacy violations
  - Discrimination, bullying, harassment, and accessing explicit material
  - Creation of deepfakes
- Discipline and Reporting
- Record Retention
- Warrantied/Indemnification