

SOUTH CAROLINA VIRTUAL SCHOOL PROGRAM UPDATE

Bradley Mitchell, Director/Office of Virtual Education

Background



- Legislation passed in 2007 to form the South Carolina Virtual School Program (SCVSP)
- Free Supplemental program—not a school; does not issue high school diplomas.
- Serves public, private, and homeschooled students under the age of 21 as well as Adult Education students

Expanded Virtual Learning Act

- June 13, 2013 – Expanded Virtual Learning Act signed
- Expanded Virtual Learning Act highlights:
 - ▣ Lift 12 credit/high school career cap
 - ▣ Lift 3 credit/school year cap
 - ▣ Allows for a program name change
- Benefits: Added flexibility & more options for students statewide

Program Rebranding – Fall 2014

- New Program Name (VirtualSC)
- New VirtualSC logo
- New Student Friendly Website with Student Portal
- New Student Information System (OpenSIS)
- New policies that promote student success
- Stronger partnerships with school districts/schools

Virtual School Improvements

- 2013-2014 Improvements:
 - Implemented a Student Services Team
 - Support students through registration
 - Team of 3 Coordinators & 1 Manager
 - Revised Student Drop Policy – 20 days
 - Teachers focus on student success
 - Expanded course offerings (Middle School courses)
 - 6-8 Grade ELA and Math Assistance Courses
 - Elementary Keyboarding Pilot (Grades 3-6)
 - Partnerships with Schools for Blended Learning courses (14 schools)
 - Completely Mobile Learning Environment

Virtual School Improvements

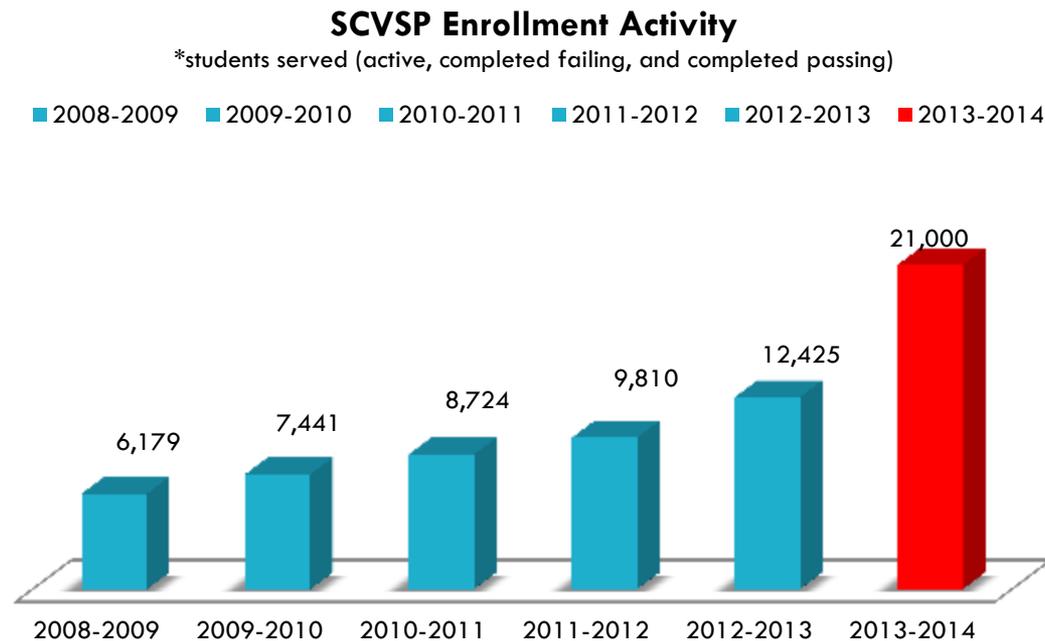
- 2014-2015 Improvements
 - ▣ New Student Portal with online support (My VirtualSC)
 - ▣ Continued course expansion
 - More Middle School level courses (8th grade courses)
 - Expanded World Language – French & German, AP Spanish
 - AP Computer Science A, AP Calculus AB, AP Biology, AP European History
 - Honors level courses (9-12)
 - ▣ New full time positions:
 - School Counselor, Curriculum Coordinator, Instructional Designer, Instructional Coach, 7 certified teaching positions
 - ▣ Franchise Program

Franchise Program

- Franchise Program – offer a “turn-key” virtual school solution to schools (includes: access to LMS, SIS, all standards aligned curriculum/content)
 - ▣ Schools use their own teachers to offer our online course content utilizing our technology and experience in Virtual Education
 - Ex: “Flipped Classrooms”, Homebound Programs, Intervention Programs, Alternative School Programs
 - ▣ Aiken Virtual Academy will pilot – Fall 2014
 - ▣ Discussions with other districts: Beaufort County School District – Fall 2015

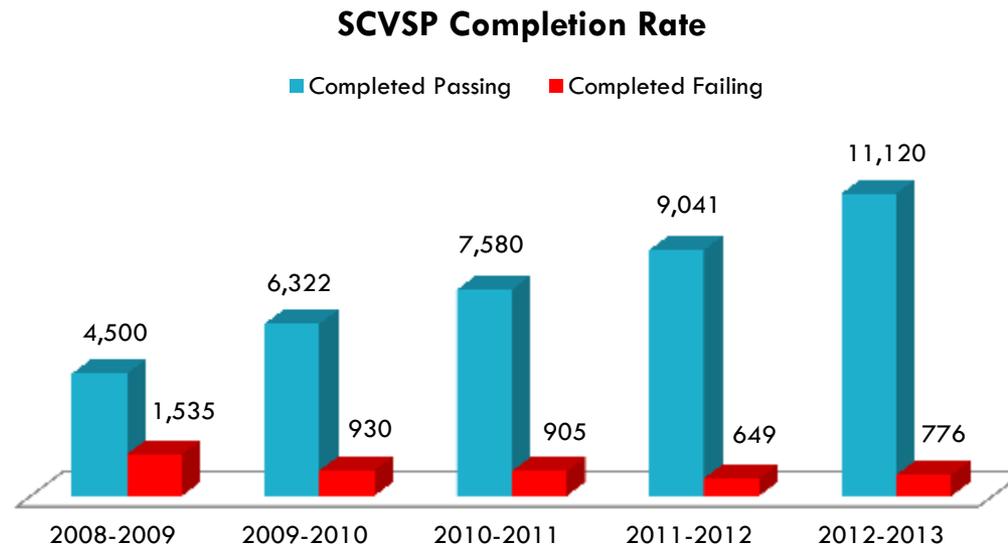
Students Served by SCVSP

- Estimated 21,000+ enrollments served in 2013-14
 - ▣ Growth of about 8,500 enrollments



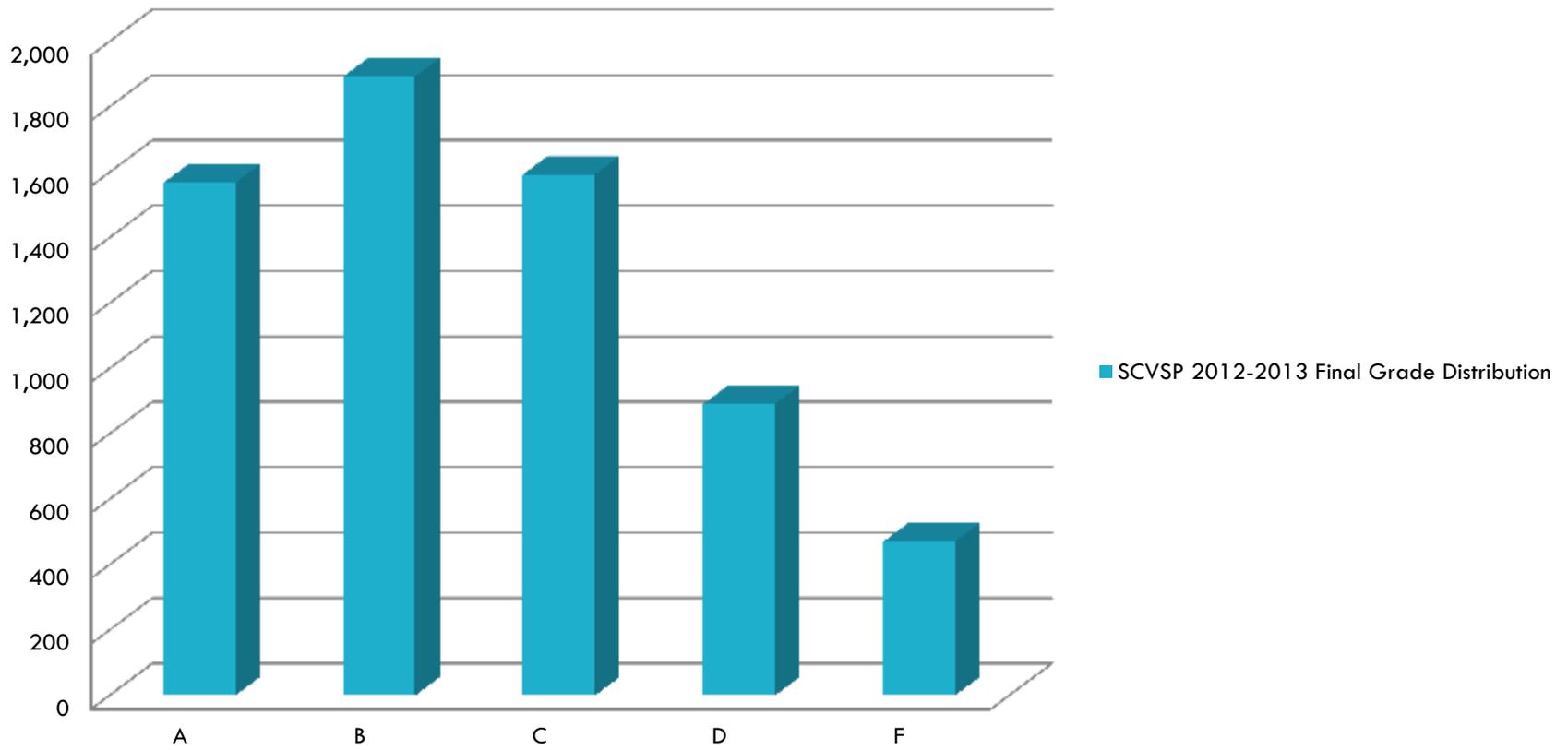
SCVSP Student Success Rate

- SCVSP has one of the highest success rates of any large virtual school program: 93%
- Since 2008, SCVSP has had an increasing success rate due to added full time teaching staff.



SCVSP Student Success

SCVSP 2012-2013 Final Grade Distribution



Additional Projects/Resources

- Shmoop – Test Preparation
 - ▣ AP Test preparation courses & practice exams
 - ▣ No cost to students, parents or schools
- SC EdReady – Customized Math Study Plan
 - ▣ Personalized college/career math readiness application to help learners fill in knowledge gaps
 - GED Math Prep, SAT/ACT Math Prep, Compass Math Prep
- Elementary Keyboarding Pilot (3-6 Grades)
 - ▣ Started in Fall 2013
 - ▣ Continued implementation this year
 - ▣ 10 Districts Piloted in 2013

Additional Projects/Resources

- Quaver Music Curriculum
 - K-5 Grade Engaging Digital Music Curriculum
 - 200+ fully developed lesson plans with assignments built in
 - Fully customizable
 - Meets local and national standards
 - Help to replace outdated textbooks by adding digital resources for Elementary Music Education



Questions/Comments



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