

South Carolina Science Council

Position Statement on Science Assessment

Introduction

THE SOUTH CAROLINA SCIENCE COUNCIL recognizes that since the passage of the South Carolina Educational Accountability Act science education in South Carolina has been identified and recognized as a core curriculum subject. We further recognize that as a core curriculum subject the resources and training necessary to provide students with an adequate science background have increased across the state.

THE SOUTH CAROLINA SCIENCE COUNCIL also understands that while standardized testing is limited in its educational value, it does provide educators with valuable information on student achievement and provides a benchmark by which to identify student progress. Testing also indicates the importance which we place on the subject being tested and provides impetus to insure continued funding and valuable instructional time.

Declarations

Within this context, SOUTH CAROLINA SCIENCE COUNCIL recommends that

- Each student in grades 3-8 is tested in the area of science annually using the Palmetto Achievement Challenge Test (PACT).
- Science Achievement on the South Carolina School Report card is weighted equally with other core subjects.
- State assessment specialists design tests that provide specific strand data to assist science educators in classroom instruction.
- Science teachers should be provided with the resources and training necessary to provide an outstanding science education for the students of South Carolina.
- Policy makers and administrators should mandate policies requiring the teaching of science and related concepts. Administrators should also support teacher's efforts in providing the best possible science education to the students of South Carolina.
- Parental and community involvement in establishing the goals of science education and the curriculum development process should be encouraged and nurtured in our democratic society. However, the professional responsibility of science teachers and curriculum specialists to provide students with quality science education should not be compromised by the lack of support in either funding or instructional time.

Adopted by the Board of Directors on January 7, 2006