

The Rural Charter School (PDMSTA) Outpacing the State Graduation Rate by 9 Points — in the Corridor of Shame Opportunity.

Pee Dee Math Science + Technology Academy · Rural South Carolina · Active 9-year engagement



THE QUESTION:

“We have a vision to expand from K-7 to K-12, we need an evidence based solution to build our teachers’ capacity, and every student must graduate with more than a diploma. How do we build a program that works for our community?”

THE ANSWER:

Install a strengths-led leadership operating system. Before we upgrade student systems we spent 3 years developing staff capacity, we upgraded adult social-emotional competence. Research is clear — teachers with high SEC produce students with high social- emotional and academic development. The Pro Social Classroom model is the evidence base.

THE OUTCOME:

66.7%	96%	\$8.4M	43%
Drop in behavior incidents 2016–2022 via CASEL & Panorama systems	Graduation rate vs. 87% South Carolina state average (+9%), 43% Graduating with Dual Enrollment Credit Earned	In scholarships through 2026 — 45 students, 143 universities.	Graduate with Dual Enrollment credits from 1 of 2 dual enrollment partners 12% have earned associates degree

HOW IT UNFOLDED:

Phase 1 · 2017–2020	Phase 2 · 2020–2022	Phase 3 · 2022–2026
Foundational Benchmarking & Shared Language	MTSS + Administrative Support	High School Advisor
Tre’ Led DISC assessments, staff culture and climate development, student behavior systems built to match adult SEC growth.	Dean of Students (Tre’) Leads expansion through Covid, Adopting 7 Mindsets SEL adopted. Panorama surveys go live. Behavior matrix + PBIS Rewards in Place.	College + Career Readiness, Career Specialist Supports, High School Administration, and System installation.

Dr. E. Keith Bailey gave Everyday Strengths something most engagements never offer: access. Tre’ walks the halls, observes classrooms, and builds solutions from evidence — not assumptions. After building staff Social Emotional Competence, we installed systems for Students. Adopting SEL Curricula (7 Mindsets), Implementing Panorama SEL Surveys, and formalizing our MTSS Behavior Matrix + PBIS Rewards system

During Covid, Tre didn't consult from a distance. He sprayed down the building as custodian. Taught up to 5 classes a day.

Led IGP prep as career specialist. Ran PBIS as behavior administrator. Whatever the school needed to keep moving — he did

Today, Tre serves as High School Advisor while the school's team runs the system on the ground. A graduating class earns \$8.4 million in scholarships across 143 universities.

The graduation rate holds at 96% against a state average of 87%. This is what a strengths-led operating system produces in a school that was never supposed to get here.

WHAT WE INSTALL

- DISC assessments for shared behavioral language across all staff
- Adult SEC development before any student-facing system
- SEL + Restorative Practice via CASEL school guide & 7 Mindsets
- Panorama Education surveys to measure system outputs

WHAT IT REPLACES

- × Behaviors that had no place to go
- × Emotions students couldn't name
- × Student-teacher relationships that were a struggle to build
- × Reactive discipline with no framework underneath it

South Carolina State Report Card Ratings



Excellent
7.5/ 10
Points earned

School Climate



School Climate

Overall Perceptions of School Climate



Teacher Perceptions of Working Conditions



Student Perceptions of Social-Physical Environment

