



# Polaris Tech

## CHARTER SCHOOL

### News Release

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### **Polaris Tech’s first state report card shows growth potential for school’s new way of teaching and learning**

Because Polaris Tech is only in its second year, the South Carolina school report card shows missing information – such as graduation rate, because there weren’t any high school seniors enrolled at Polaris Tech last year.

While academic data is largely missing and likely will show up in the report cards in Fall 2020, school leaders say the data show good growth in reading skills by Polaris Tech students.

“We realized very early that many of our students were well below grade level with their reading skills,” Polaris Tech Executive Director Dr. Melissa Crosby said. “Because reading is a foundation for understanding all the other class work, they were having more trouble to start.”

With that realization, Crosby and her team shifted gears and changed how the navigators (teachers) taught reading. “Once we made that adjustment, we began to see some of our learners start to blossom and they’ve just grown,” she said.

That’s one of the advantages of a charter school – flexibility to make adjustments based on student needs, noted retired Air Force Gen. Lloyd “Fig” Newton, chair of the Polaris Tech board.

“We look at a lot of data for student achievement, and we understand there is a lot of room for improvement,” he said. “We also understand that you celebrate each victory, and helping our students succeed in reading and the End of Course exam is an achievement.”

Details about the Polaris Tech report card and all other state public and charter schools, are available on the S.C. Department of Education’s website <https://ed.sc.gov/data/report-cards/>.

Polaris Tech is a state-approved charter school serving middle and high school students from Jasper County and the Lowcountry. It is a free school (no tuition), that focuses on preparing young people for successful work and college.

The Polaris Tech academic emphasis is on six career areas, starting with: Aerospace, Health Sciences and Business Management. Polaris Tech continues to accept student applications for the 2019-2020 school year for students in grades 6-11. Applications are available online at [www.polaristech.org](http://www.polaristech.org).

The newly-constructed school is located on Grays Highway across from the Ridgeland Airport.

To keep updated about Polaris Tech Charter School, follow them on Facebook and at [www.polaristech.org](http://www.polaristech.org). For specific questions, email [info@polaristech.org](mailto:info@polaristech.org) or call 843-645-0605.

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