



2014 READY ACCOUNTABILITY BACKGROUND BRIEF SUPPLEMENT: North Carolina School Performance Grades

Public school accountability is a standard practice for North Carolina going back to the early 1990s. Through accountability reporting, North Carolinians can see how students are performing at the school, district and state levels.

The 2013-14 school year was the second year of the state's READY initiative, which included a new *Standard Course of Study* in all subjects and grade levels, new student assessments aligned to the revised standards, and a new school accountability model. With such significant changes, one expects to see different results in the short and long term. In the past when the State Board of Education has raised English/language arts and mathematics standards, student performance has decreased. Experience also has shown that as teachers and students become acclimated to the more rigorous standards, academic performance trends upward.

North Carolina typically releases school, district and state accountability results in August. North Carolina School Report Cards are usually released in October to provide more detailed information about student performance and other key data points such as school safety and teacher qualifications that are of interest to parents and the school community.

Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly requires the inclusion of School Performance Grades as part of the North Carolina School Report Cards. When the North Carolina School Report Cards are released on Feb. 5, every traditional and public charter school will receive an A-F letter grade. Beginning in the 2015-16 school year, the North Carolina School Report Cards will be released in September and will incorporate both the School Performance Grades and state READY accountability results.

How are School Performance Grades Calculated?

As required by state legislation, the School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on the school's achievement score (calculated using a composite method based on the sum of points earned by a school on all of the indicators measured for that school), and 20 percent on students' academic growth (compares the actual performance of the school's students to their expected performance based on their prior testing performance). There is an exception to this. If a school meets expected growth but inclusion of the school's growth reduces the school's performance score and grade, a school may choose to use the School Achievement Score only to calculate the performance score and grade. The final grade will be based on a 15-point scale this year, and a 10-point scale for future years, per legislation.

Calculating a School's Achievement Score

There are several indicators that will be used to calculate an elementary/middle school's achievement score. K-8 schools will use the following indicators where applicable:

- End-of-Grade Reading (grades 3-8)
- End-of-Grade Math (grades 3-8)
- End-of-Grade Science (grades 5 and 8)
- End-of-Course Math I
- End-of-Course Biology

When calculating the achievement score for each indicator, the percent of students who score at or above Level 3 on each assessment is divided by the total number of students for that indicator. To get the total School Achievement Score, the total number of proficient scores for all indicators are added and then divided by the total number of scores for all indicators.

High schools will use the following indicators to calculate the achievement score:

- End-of-Course Math I
- End-of-Course English II
- End-of-Course Biology
- The ACT (percent of students who score 17 or above – UNC System’s minimum composite score requirement)
- ACT WorkKeys (percent of students who achieve a Silver Certificate or better)
- Math Course Rigor (percent of students who successfully complete Math III)
- 4-year Graduation Rate (percent of students who graduate in four years)

Again, when calculating the achievement score for each indicator, the percent of students who meet the standard is divided by the total number of students for that indicator. To get the total School Achievement Score, the total number of scores or benchmarks meeting the standard for all indicators is added and then divided by the total number of scores or benchmarks for all indicators.

Schools spanning both K-8 grades and high school will use the appropriate indicators accordingly. For example, a K-12 school will use all of the indicators for K-8 and high school.

Calculating a School’s Growth Score

The school’s Growth Score is generated by using EVAAS (Education Value Added Assessment System). EVAAS is a value-added growth model that uses end-of-grade and end-of-course assessment data to measure the amount of growth groups of students make in a year. EVAAS calculates a composite index of growth, which determines the growth designation for the school: exceeds expected growth, meets expected growth or does not meet expected growth.

For the purposes of the School Performance Grades, the growth composite index also is converted to a 100-point scale, so that it can be combined with the School Achievement Score to create the overall School Performance Grade.

Calculating a School’s Performance Grade

As mentioned earlier, a school’s performance grade will be based 80 percent on the school’s achievement score and 20 percent on students’ academic growth. The final grade will be based on the following 15-point scale for the 2013-14 school year only.

A = 85-100 B = 70-84 C = 55-69 D = 40-54 F = Less than 40

Beginning in 2014-15, a 10-point grading scale will be used. Following is an example for calculating a school’s performance grade.

	Score	Multiply by	Input for Final Grade
School Achievement	64.4	.80	51.5
Growth*	100.0	.20	20.0
Final Score**			72
Final Grade***			B

* If a school meets expected growth but inclusion of the school’s growth score reduces the school’s performance score and grade, a school may choose to use the school achievement score only to calculate its performance score and grade.

** For reporting purposes, the performance score is rounded to the nearest whole number.

*** K-8 schools will receive a separate score and grade for reading and math. This will include both achievement and growth measures in the same way as the overall School Performance Grade. Schools with no data available to calculate at least a School Achievement Score will not receive a School Performance Grade. An example would be K-2 schools. Additionally, alternative schools and other schools approved to use the Alternative Accountability Model will not receive a School Performance Grade, but these schools may elect to do so starting in 2014-15.



Select District(s) ▾

School Performance Grade | End of Grade | End of Course | The ACT | ACT WorkKeys | Passing Math III | Cohort Graduation Rate | Read to Achieve | AMO | School Performance Grade (1)

Select School(s) ▾

School Performance Grade:
 School Performance Grades were issued for the first time in the 2013-14 school year as required by the NC General Assembly. All public schools in North Carolina have been assigned an A through F letter grade based on achievement and growth. The achievement score is worth 80% of the school performance grade and the growth score is worth 20% of the school performance grade. After combining these 2 values, the score is placed on the following scale:

A: 85-100 points
 B: 70-84 points
 C: 55-69 points
 D: 40-54 points
 F: Less than 40 points

In the event that a school meets or exceeds growth and their final score and grade are reduced when growth is combined with achievement, growth will not be included in the final score and grade. The achievement score will be used as the final score and grade. For schools that do not meet growth, if their score and grade are reduced, growth will remain in the final score and grade calculation.

In addition to the final score and grade, schools containing any grades K-8 that administer math and English language arts/reading assessments are also given separate scores and grades based on the achievement of math results and English language arts/reading results.

This report does not support comparison among schools. Only one school may be selected at a time.

To protect student privacy, any percentage that is greater than or equal to 95% appears as 95%, and "-" will appear for any percentage that is less than or equal to 5%.

Additional information regarding School Performance Grades may be found in the Data Sources and Information Guide.

School	School Performance Grade	School Performance Score	Growth Status
ABC Middle	C	64	Exceeded

Overall | EOG Scores ▾

Achievement Indicators	Proficiency Rate
EOG Reading	58%
EOG Math	46%
EOG Science	72%
Math 1	93%

Achievement Score

55

Growth Score

99.5

Exceeded
Met
Did Not Meet

School Performance Score = (.8 x Achievement Score) + (.2 x Growth Score)

Where Can I Find My School's Performance Grade?

School Performance Grades are included on the North Carolina School Report Cards (www.ncreportcards.org) under the School Performance section. Each school's academic performance page will include not only the school's performance grade but also student performance on other key academic measures.

School Performance Grades are one component parents and the school community may use to determine how students in their school are doing in comparison to those in the district and across the state. It's also important for parents to consider student performance on end-of-grade and end-of-course assessments as well as the other indicators that the state uses to determine college and career readiness.

Resources

School districts have a number of programs in place to support teachers and students as they become more familiar with the state's standards and assessments. Contact your principal for more information on these initiatives. If you want more information on the state's READY initiative or the NC School Report Cards, you may want to visit the following websites:

- School Performance Grades Accountability Brief – www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/generalinfo
- READY Initiative – www.ncpublicschools.org/ready
- NC School Report Cards – www.ncreportcards.org
- North Carolina Standard Course of Study – www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum

QUESTIONS?

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