

Halifax County Schools
9525 Highway 301 South
Halifax, NC 27839
(252) 583-5111

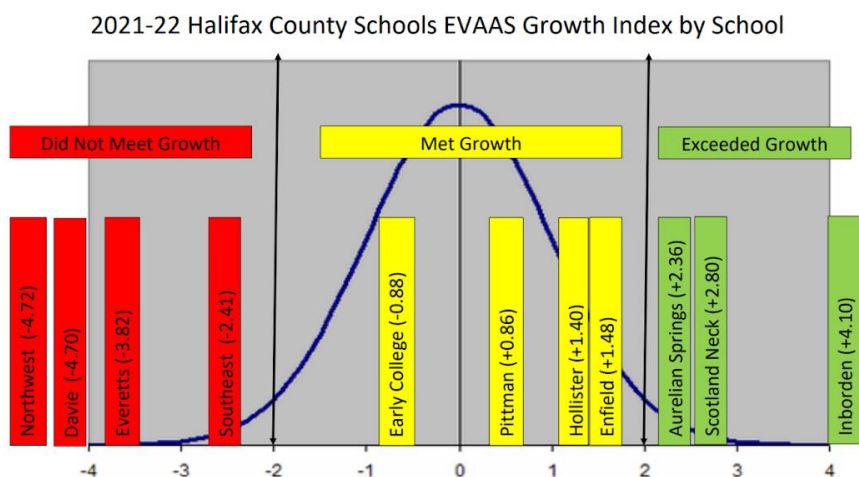
November 1, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly provides parents with an additional measure of school performance in the form of School Performance Grades. Beginning with the 2013–14 school year, the annual North Carolina School Report Cards display a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F for each school in the state.

The School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. Halifax County Schools had 7 of its 11 schools meet or exceed expected growth. Our cohort graduation rate is 85.3%, higher than last year's 83.7%.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Halifax County Schools has been designated as a low-performing district by the North Carolina State Board of Education, despite 7 of 11 schools meeting or exceeding growth expectations. A low-performing district is one in which the majority of the schools in the district have been identified as low-performing. The State Board of Education has found that 63% of schools have been identified as low performing (see image below).



As defined in G.S. 115C-105.37: "The State Board of Education shall identify low-performing schools annually. Low-performing schools are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15."

It is important to remember that just as no single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about a school's performance or the opportunities that our school provides. One of our top priorities for 2022–2023 is to improve the School Performance Grade in each school. Many key programs are in place to help improve student performance. These include:

- Extended learning opportunities (i.e. tutoring and afterschool support)
- Explicit instruction
- Professional development

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As a low-performing district, we are required to develop an improvement plan that specifically addresses how the district will improve both the school performance grade and school growth score of each low-performing school in the unit, and how the superintendent and other central office administrators will work with each low-performing school and monitor the low-performing school's progress. The preliminary plan will be presented to our local school board at their next meeting, November 7, 2022, where the plan will be presented for approval. The final plan for improvement will be available on our local district website at www.halifax.k12.nc.us.

We hope you will closely follow your student's academic progress and work with his or her teacher(s) to help ensure they stay on track academically. Working together as a team, we can improve not only how well our students are performing individually, but how our schools are performing as a whole. There is nothing more important to administrators and teachers of Halifax County Schools than ensuring students are ready for the next step in their academic careers. We look forward to working with you to make sure your student is on track for success.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our School Performance Grade and how we plan to improve the schools within our district, please don't hesitate to contact Dr. Tyrana B. Battle, Assistant Superintendent, battlet@halifax.k12.nc.us. A copy of our [plan](#) is attached for your review.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eric L. Cunningham

Dr. Eric L. Cunningham, Superintendent