

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

September 29, 2023

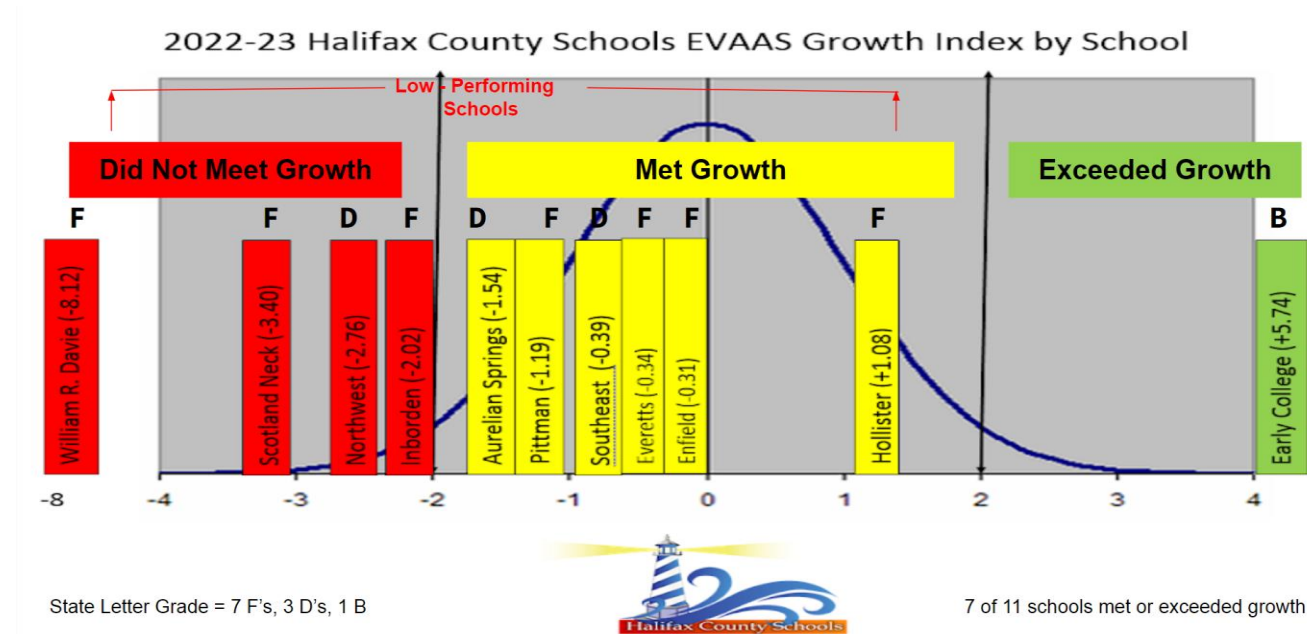
Dear Parent/Guardian,

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 on 80 percent of our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent of students' academic growth. Halifax County Schools had 7 of its 11 schools meet or exceed expected growth based on students' performance on the following annual assessments: Grades 3–8 Mathematics, Grades 3–8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grades 5 and 8 Science, NC Math 1, NC Math 3, English II, and Biology, and additional indicators including English Learner Progress, ACT/ACT WorkKeys, Math Course Rigor, and the 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate.

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 have been identified as low-performing. The State Board of Education has found that 90.9% of schools are identified as low-performing (see image below).

Growth Data 2022-2023



As defined in G.S. 115C-105.37: "The State Board of Education shall identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. 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."

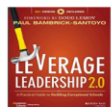
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It is important to remember that just as no one single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about the performance of a school or the opportunities that our school provides. One of our top priorities for 2023–2024 is to improve the School Performance Grade in each school. There are several key initiatives we have in place to help improve student performance. These include:

- Job Embedded Professional Development
- Protection of Instructional Time
- Maximizing Instructional Time
- Use of Data for Student Growth
- Monitoring and Feedback

The Plan – Instructional Focus



Professional Development	Protection of Instructional Time	Maximizing Instructional Time	Use of Data for Student Growth	Monitoring and Feedback
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Book Study  • Coaching Support • Crucial Conversations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fidelity to instructional block of time <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Core = 90 minutes • Supplemental = 180 minutes • Intensive = 270 minutes • Uninterrupted Instructional Blocks 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Lesson Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common Planning • Horizontal/Vertical Planning • Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) • Use of New Pacing Guides • Focus on Academic Rigor 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where Are We Now? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Assessments (Interim, CFAs, Exit Tickets) – Previous Year Results • Where Are We Going? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Setting Targets to Maximize – Student Growth • How do we get there? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Growing the student from current level of proficiency 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Walkthroughs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – B.O.Y. – M.O.Y. – E.O.Y. • Weekly Data Meetings • Coaching Support • Crucial Conversation • Use of Exit Tickets • Use of Super Observations

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 division 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, on October 2, 2023, and placed on the website for your review (www.halifax.k12.nc.us).

If you have any questions or concerns on how we plan to improve the schools within our district or have any feedback regarding the plan, please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Tyrana B. Battle, Assistant Superintendent, battlet@halifax.k12.nc.us by October 31, 2023.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eric L. Cunningham

Dr. Eric L. Cunningham, Superintendent