

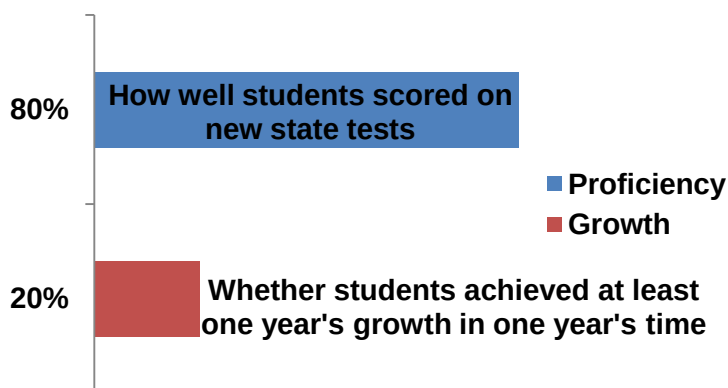
What Are School Performance Grades?

The General Assembly passed legislation that means the state will issue A-F grades for nearly all schools in North Carolina. The grades are coming out on Feb. 5.

While that may sound simple, it really isn't. We don't think the way the grades are computed reflects the quality of education our schools are providing. In fact, our school board passed a resolution calling for a repeal of the legislation.

How Are the Grades Calculated?

The simple answer: 80% is based on proficiency on state tests (high school grades include a few other measures, such as graduation rates and ACT scores) and 20% is based on growth.



Why Is This A Concern?

Any fair evaluation of the quality of a school requires looking at multiple measures of performance, not just one or two numbers.

Imagine if your child took one or two quizzes over the course of a year and received a letter grade based just on those few numbers? **That's not a complete picture, yet that's what our schools are facing.**

All our schools offer personalized opportunities for students to learn and grow, thanks to dedicated teachers, principals and support staff, as well as magnet and choice schools, Career and Technical Education courses, advanced academics and programs for students with special needs. Help us share your story. Contact your school or email us at goodnews@gcsnc.com.



What's Important to CCS?

GCS has a clear roadmap to ensure student success in character, academics and all that we do. It's outlined in the *Strategic Plan 2016: Achieving Educational Excellence: Personalizing Learning*. We launched the plan in 2013 and it sets our goals and strategies through 2016.

Those Strategic Plan goals include:

- Increasing our graduation rate, **currently a record-high 88.5%**
- Raising ACT scores
- Ensuring elementary-school students have a strong foundation for reading
- Reducing gaps and disparities in student performance and other measures
- Increasing the percentage of middle school students on-track for high school graduation

We also want our students to be compassionate, kind and engaged citizens, so we focus on character development, service learning and civics, along with academics.

Find out more about the 2016 Strategic Plan, including details about GCS' goals and strategies and updates on each project team:

http://www.gcsnc.com/pages/gcsnc/Departments/Strategic_Planning/Strategic_Plan_2016.