



September 21, 2018

Dear DPS families:

Durham Public Schools is on the move. We have adopted a new five-year Strategic Plan, our overall student achievement continues to increase, and we have an active community that rallies behind our students and schools. Durham believes in the power of public education, driven by family and community involvement, that ignites the limitless potential of every child.

It's important that you get to know our schools. One way—but only one way—is through the North Carolina School Report Card. It comes out every year for every public and charter school in the state, providing a snapshot of selected data including student performance, class size, attendance, school safety, instructional resources, and teacher quality. This data is important, but it is only part of the story. Changes in academic programs, staffing and student enrollment may affect a school's performance in any given year. With the right teacher, support, and family involvement, any child can thrive in any DPS school.

The data in this School Report Card covers the 2017-18 school year. In that time, we had academic gains almost across the board in kindergarten through eighth grade, especially in science and math proficiency. The number of our schools earning an "A," "B," or "C," School Performance Grade rose to 32 from 27, and the total number of our schools designated as "low-performing" declined. The percentage of schools meeting or exceeding growth expectations rose to 76 percent. Grade-level proficiency across Durham Public Schools rose by 1.9 percentage points, our highest gain in five years. This is great progress, but we are committed to even more rapid improvement.

The formula our state uses to assign a letter grade to your school is based 80 percent on overall academic achievement and 20 percent on the academic growth students made from the beginning of the school year to its end. Growth is a more accurate measure of how much a school's teachers and staff accomplished during the year with their students. It is important that you get to know your child's teachers and become a part of your school community so that you can fully understand your school's strengths.

We are proud of our teachers and students, and we will not rest until Durham Public Schools is recognized for their success across our state. As I said, we believe your child has limitless potential. It is our honor to serve you.

Sincerely,

Pascal Mubenga