



November 15, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope you and your child are enjoying a successful start to the school year. We are excited to have you at Ignite! Online Academy, and we are committed to supporting your child's academic success in every way. Our teachers and staff have a great year ahead for our students.

I am writing this letter to let you know that Ignite! Online Academy has been designated as a "low-performing" school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As defined in G.S. 115C-105.37: "The State Board of Education shall design and implement a procedure to identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that receive a 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."

School Performance Grades are calculated for all schools as required by the North Carolina Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan and North Carolina General Statute 115-C 83.15. A-F letter grades are assigned to all public schools in the state. School Performance Grades are assigned using a weighted model of 80% achievement and 20% growth. Schools use a defined set of indicators for the letter grades, as seen below.

**Elementary/Middle Indicators**

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Reading/Mathematics Assessments</li><li>• English Learner Progress</li><li>• Science Assessments</li></ul>	<b>80%</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• EVAAS School Growth (Reading, Mathematics and Science)</li></ul>	<b>20%</b>

These grades are used to identify schools in need of Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) as required by ESSA. Also, as required by state law, School Performance Grades and a school's growth status determines whether a school is low-performing or a district is low-performing. Lists of CSI schools and low-performing schools and districts will be posted on the Accountability Services website after approval by the State Board of Education in September.

Ignite! Online Academy received a school performance grade of a D and, as a low performing school, is required to develop an improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve both the school performance grade and school growth score. The plan will also include how the superintendent and other central office administrators in Durham Public Schools will work with us and monitor our progress. School Improvement Plans were presented to our school board on October 18. Once approved by our school board and the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), our School Improvement Plan will be linked on our local district website ([www.dpsnc.net](http://www.dpsnc.net)) as well as the NCDPI's website ([www.ncpublicschools.org](http://www.ncpublicschools.org)).

We have a lot to be proud of at Ignite! Online Academy, including:

- Being the ONLY K-12 school in DPS that offers 100% highly personalized remote instruction
- 79.4% growth in reading for our students in grades 3-8
- 73.0% growth for our economically disadvantaged students in grades 3-12
- 70.8% proficiency for our grade 8 students in science

We remain focused on continuous improvement, and I look forward to working with each of you as we focus on providing the best education for our children. Please contact me with any questions about our School Improvement Plan or how you might get more involved in supporting the growth at Ignite! Online Academy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Crystal B. Medlin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

Crystal B. Medlin