



Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy

8492 Hwy 48 • Littleton, NC 27850
(252) 586-4125 • Fax: (252) 586-6240

Steve A. Hunter
Principal

Dr. Eric L. Cunningham
Superintendent
Dr. Tyrana B. Battle
Assistant Superintendent

October 31, 2022

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of our students. As a parent/guardian of a student in Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy, I am writing this letter to let you know that Northwest has been designated as a low performing school and Halifax County Public Schools has been designated as a low performing district 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." The new law, G.S. 115C-105.39A states, "A low-performing local school administrative unit is a unit in which the majority of the schools in that unit that received a school performance grade and school growth score as provided in G.S. 115C-83.15 have been identified as low-performing schools, as provided in G.S. 115C-105.37."

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. Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy received a school report card grade of D for the 2021-22 school year. (For the previous testing year of 2018-19, Northwest Collegiate and Technical Academy received a school report card letter grade of C!)

School Performance Grades are assigned using a weighted model of 80% achievement and 20% growth. Schools with a grade span that does not go beyond 8th grade (grades 3-8, referred to as Elementary/Middle) use a defined set of indicators for the letter grades. Schools with a grade span starting at 9th grade (grades 9-13, referred to as High School) use another set of indicators. Schools with grades in both grade spans use the indicators from each combined to create one letter grade. 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 October.

In regards to the components that make up high school accountability, I would like to share the following key areas that contribute to the school report card grade: (High School Indicators)

Reading/Math Assessments (80%)

- English Learner Progress
- 4 Year Cohort Graduate Rate

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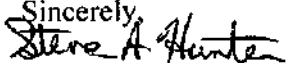
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- Biology Assessment
- ACT/WorkKeys Assessments
- Passing NC Math 3 Course

EVAAS School Growth (20%)

After analyzing our high school indicators, we believe our School Report Card Letter Grade dropped from a C to a D because of our testing results from Math One during the 2021-22 school year, and we did not meet the Testing Rate of 95% of students from our Math One students. Moving forward, we will continue to focus on our strengths and weaknesses (High School Indicators) to return to a school report card grade of C or higher. During this school year, we will need your help in ensuring all students are attending school each day, following the teachers' expectations, and staying after school for tutoring in those End of Course subjects such as Biology, English Two, Math One, and Math Three on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 3:30 to 5 pm (Bus transportation is provided!)

Sincerely,

Steve A. Hunter