



Halifax County Schools

Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA)

Based on Parents' Bill of Rights - SB 49; Session Law 2023-106

It is the goal of the Halifax County School System to offer parents and guardians access to information regarding student achievement via the district's Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA). Should you wish to obtain paper copies of this document and its contents, you can make a request through your child's respective school.

1a) How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?	The following are the relevant State and local requirements for a child to be promoted to the next grade level. The relevant part of this link is found in <u>Part 1A (pp. 15-28)</u> regarding retention, promotion, alternatives to show reading proficiency, etc. <u>N.C. Grade Level Promotion Guide</u>. For information about Halifax County Schools' Promotion and Accountability procedures and Graduation Requirements, please click here. <u>Policy 3420 Student Promotion and Accountability</u>; <u>Graduation Requirements</u> The following information covers minimum state graduation requirements from the state to earn a diploma and graduate. It also covers specific cohort information. Local school districts and other public school units may require additional courses and credits to graduate. <u>Information on NC High School Graduation Requirements</u>.
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	For more information on Halifax County Schools graduation requirements, please refer to Policy 3420 Student Promotion and Accountability; Graduation Requirements.
1b) What is my child learning at school? How can a parent review these materials?	In North Carolina, all schools use the same Standard Course of Study, determined by the State Board of Education. These standards are the knowledge and skills students should understand by the end of each grade/course. The following standards can be found on the website below: Arts Education, Career Technical Education, Computer Science, English Language Arts, English Language Development, Student Success Standards, Healthful Living, Information and Technology, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Language. NCDPI Office of Academic Standards website Local districts, schools and teachers determine how to teach these standards, including curriculum, supplementary materials, books, etc. Access the links below to understand the curriculum in Halifax County Schools as well as our policies for reviewing the curriculum: Parent Curriculum Documents Policy 3200 Selection of Instructional Materials Policy 3210 Parental/Guardian Inspection and Objection to Instructional Materials and the Reconsideration of Media Collection Materials HEALTHFUL LIVING: Reproductive Health and Safety For more information see Policy 6100 Goals of Student Health Services and Policy 6140



	Student Wellness. Halifax County Schools is committed to a sound school health program that provides students with accurate information and encourages them to be responsible for their own health and behavior. The district recognizes the primary role of parents/guardians in providing for the health and well-being of their children and seeks to involve parents/guardians in the schools. The school health education program provided by the district will meet all requirements established by state and federal law. The school health education program will meet all objectives in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study adopted by the State Board of Education. Curriculum materials are accessible for review on the Curriculum and Instruction webpage. The school health education program will be taught to students from grades K-9. In grades 4-9 students are taught Reproductive Health and Safety (Family Life Education). Every effort has been made to provide quality Family Life Education instruction for your child. Teachers have received special training and will only use approved curriculum materials and supplements when teaching in the classroom. Each school will communicate with parents prior to beginning the Reproductive Health and Safety Unit. All parents/guardians have the right to “opt out” of this unit. If you choose to exclude your child, you must do so in writing to the principal and teacher stating you do not want your child to participate. Alternate and comparable assignments will be given. The Halifax County School’s Literacy Instructional Framework and Literacy Letter to stakeholders are linked for your review. Halifax County Schools offer Career and Technical Education (CTE) courses, allowing students to explore careers and acquire credentials. Access information on CTE Career
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	Clusters, Pathways, Course Details, Credentials, and Course Standards through this link. NC Course Management System
1c) How will a parent learn about my child's progress in school or with a class?	Halifax County Schools share the progress of students through a variety of ways. Progress reports (every 4.5 weeks) and Reports cards (every 9 weeks) are sent to parents in order to communicate student academic strengths and any areas for improvement. Feedback on conduct is also included. Policy Code: 3400 Evaluation of Student Progress Policy Code: 1310/4002 Parental Involvement Kindergarten students receive report cards aligned to the North Carolina Early Learning Inventory (NC ELI) objectives and dimensions which are aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Students in grades 1-5 receive Standards-Based Report Cards. Standards-Based Report Cards provide feedback on individual student's progression toward proficiency on standards aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Each quarter reports cards are sent home electronically, and parents may request hard copies of these reports from their home school. Additionally, parents can expect weekly feedback on their child's work. Students in grades 6-12 receive a Traditional Report Card calculated using a 10-point grading scale. Parents have access to their child's grades 24/7 using PowerSchool's Parent Portal. The NC transcript contains grades from all high school classes, weighted and unweighted



	Grade Point Average (GPA), standardized test data and student demographics. Students may ask for an unofficial transcript at any time. High schools provide each senior with three official transcripts at no charge (for college applications, programs, scholarships, etc.). In addition, there is no charge for mid-year senior transcript, final transcript after graduation, and transcript for any award or scholarship requested. State Assessments: All NC students take end-of-grade assessments for reading and math in grades 3-8. Students take end-of-grade science assessments in grades 5 and 8. High school students take end-of-course assessments in English II, Biology, NC Math 1, and NC Math 3. Students in Grade 10 take the Pre-ACT. Students in grade 11 take the ACT. Students who are CTE Concentrators in Grade 12 take ACT WorkKeys. Those results are shared by ACT. An Individual Reading Plan (IRP) shall be developed for any student in kindergarten through third grade demonstrating difficulty with reading. An IRP will have specific strategies/ideas that can be done at home. (see K-3 Reading Implementation Plan and Literacy Intervention Plan) North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) selected mCLASS DIBELS[®] 8th Edition as the state's K-3 Literacy Assessment. mCLASS is an integrated literacy system based on the Science of Reading. mCLASS has been revised and upgraded from the assessment NC districts have used in the past, based on the latest research and the Science of Reading. It is a valid and reliable assessment, supporting universal literacy screening, and progress monitoring.
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1d) What are the qualifications of my child's teachers?	Parents may look up your child's teacher licensure status at this website Link to the licensure website. The licensure look up webpage does not include current employment information. Parents may need additional information (i.e., middle name or license number) to identify the teacher accurately. Substitute teachers (either short or long term) may not hold a NC teaching license. Please contact our Human Resources office at 252-583-5111 to verify an educator's licensure status.
1e) What are the requirements for school enrollment? What are the immunizations needed or recommended for children?	The following are the North Carolina statutory school entry requirements, this includes required immunizations: - Admission requirements: GS 115C-364.pdf (ncleg.gov) - Immunization records: GS 130A-155.pdf (ncleg.gov) - Immunization requirements: GS 130A-152.pdf (ncleg.gov) NC GS 130 A-152 graphic (*this law was amended but is not reflected on the current GA page; see SL2023-134.pdf (ncleg.gov), Section 5.8(e) on page 64") Information on school assignment can be located through: • N.C. Law on School Assignment: GS 115C-366 Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). NCDHHS Immunizations Resources - Expected Immunization Schedules



	- Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements - Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements - Twelfth Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements														
2a) How can a parent help their child learn and make progress?	Engaging with your child about school and what they are learning is pivotal to their learning process. ● Ask questions daily about your child’s school day. ● Inquire about topics and assignments they are learning. ● Connect with teachers to understand your child’s progress. ● Ask the teachers how you can help your child learn. ● Attend different events at your child’s school to stay connected and learn how to support them. Halifax County Schools Resources: At-Home Learning Support (Elementary) Parent Curriculum Resources (Middle School) Parent Resources (High School) <u>Curriculum Resources:</u> <table><tr><td>K</td><td>1st</td><td>2nd</td><td>3rd</td><td>4th</td><td>5th</td><td>6th</td></tr><tr><td>7th</td><td>8th</td><td>9th</td><td>10th</td><td>11th</td><td>12th</td><td>District</td></tr></table> PreK Curriculum Resources - Early Learning and Development ● NC PreK Program Requirements	K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th	7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	District
K	1st	2nd	3rd	4th	5th	6th									
7th	8th	9th	10th	11th	12th	District									



Parent Guides for Academic Standards:

The following grade level guides contain information to support parents and caregivers with understanding the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. The purpose of these guides is to inform parents about the standards, as well as provide useful strategies to incorporate at home.

Parent Guides for [ELA](#)

Parent Guide for [ELD](#)

Math Parent Guides: [K-5](#), [6-8](#)

[Social Studies Parent Guides](#)

[Science Parent Guides](#)

Title I Supports - Halifax County Schools is a [School-wide Title I district](#).

- [Parent and Family Involvement](#)

Reading and Literacy Support:

This following site provides resources for families to practice and reinforce important literacy skills with their children who are being assessed with mCLASS reading assessments: [Amplify Parent Resources](#)

Home activities, printables, and games to support reading and literacy are also available at North Carolina's [Digital Children's Reading Initiative](#) (DCRI). These activities include the following topics, Pre-K-Grade 5:

- (1) Phonemic awareness
- (2) Phonics
- (3) Vocabulary



	(4) Fluency (5) Comprehension (6) Oral language Printable activities will be made available for students who do not have digital access at home and may be provided to all students as a supplement to digital resources. For paper copies, please contact <i>(Insert contact name and contact information)</i>. DCRI Printables for Families Literacy at Home - Digital Children's Reading Initiative (DCRI) Literacy Intervention Plan High School Course Catalog - shows a list of courses offered and the course descriptions.
2b) How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?	The Positivity Project is being implemented district wide as a way for students to learn more about character strengths and how we can all display them each and every day. What is the Positivity Project? Positivity Project Family Information Please visit P2 for Families for more information on the Positivity Project and how you can keep the discussion about character strengths going at home. Halifax County Schools embeds Portrait of a Graduate skills in the classroom and school setting. These durable skills were developed by NCDPI and will support a child's understanding of citizenship, social skills and respect for others. Grade level specific resources, including developmentally appropriate milestones can be



	found in the following resource repository NC Portrait of a Graduate - Durable Skills. Additionally, competencies and skills covered through the teachings of The Positivity Project to build character strengths and leverage positive relationships, can be found in The Positivity Project's Profile of a Graduate. Parents are encouraged to partner with their student services teams in their work to support academic achievement, develop interpersonal skills, strengthen mental wellness, and explore career activities after graduation. School counseling, psychological services, and social work staff encourage students to learn skills in emotional regulation to support healthy decision-making skills and emotional development.
2c) How can a parent strengthen communication with the school/teacher?	Communication with parents and families is very important to us. Our district website is the Primary way that we communicate with parents, students and the community Halifax County Schools Website. Each school maintains a website that provides information about activities and events specific to that particular school community. Additionally, Halifax County Schools uses the following platforms for communication between home/school: ○ Parent Portal ○ X (formerly Twitter) - https://x.com/HalifaxRise ○ Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/HalifaxCountySchoolsNC) ○ Instagram (www.instagram.com/@halifaxrise) ○ Youtube (https://www.youtube.com/@halifaxcountyschooldistrict444) Tips for Parents: ● Visit the Curriculum and Instruction website for parent/family resources. ● Stay informed of school activities by visiting school websites, registering your ParentSquare account, and reviewing newsletters and notes.



	● Check PowerSchool weekly (grades 6-12) for missing assignments and current grades. (Link guides for how to gain parent access to LMS and/or SIS) ● Review progress reports and report cards with your child. Set goals with your child. ● Communicate with your child’s teacher about his/her progress and upcoming events. ● Monitor homework by ensuring your child completes his/her homework and it is turned in on time. ● Talk to your child about his/her school experience. Indicate to your child that you expect school to be a positive experience. ● Encourage daily reading by providing opportunities for your child to read both fiction and non-fiction books and articles. ● Utilize digital resources to support your child’s individual learning. Check school and teacher websites for more details. You can also access the curriculum through the Curriculum and Instruction Parent Canvas Course. The following are NCDPI developed parent guides that provide suggestions for building strong relationships with your child’s teacher and supporting communication between home and school. Building Strong Relationships with Your Child’s Teacher (NC Rethink Education Program) How You Can Use Questions to Support Your Child’s Learning (NC Rethink Education Program) Additional general parent guides and parent resource webinar recordings can be found at the following website.
3) What services are available for parents and their children?	Halifax County Schools Pre-Kindergarten Program



	CFNC & NCSEAA: What You Need to Know About the Better FAFSA NC Promise Program Parent Engagement Strategies High School Course Catalog
4) What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?	Policy Code: 5010 Parent Organizations Policy Code: 1310/4002 Parental Involvement
5. What are the rigorous academic programs available to my child? How can I learn more about them?	Halifax County Schools provide a range of options for students to explore and develop their interests and skills at their academic level. Halifax County Schools' Strategic Plan Visit Halifax County Schools' Strategic Plan to learn more about ways the district impacts teaching and learning. High School Course Catalog - outlines a list of high school courses and the associated course descriptions. Career & Technical Education (CTE) program description: Pathways Career Pathways are the heart of Career & Technical Education. A career pathway is a structured sequence of courses that lead to an industry credential, post-secondary employment or further training and development. The purpose of a career pathway is to



	guide students through a continuum of courses leading to the development of advanced technical skills. For more information on CTE in NC, and to learn about Career Clusters, Pathways, and Course Information, Standards, and applicable Credentials please visit: Course Management System or The Halifax County Schools Course Catalog Guide. Early Colleges: The aim of the Early College model is to graduate students who earn a high school diploma as well as two years of transferable college credit or an associate degree all at no cost to their families. The target population for early colleges is first generation college-goers, those seeking a challenging, more rigorous curriculum, or other historically underserved populations. The Innovative Education Initiatives Act (SL 2003-277, Senate Bill 656) and the Cooperative Innovative High School Programs statute (§ 115C-238.50-.55) encourage Local Education Agencies (LEAs) to partner with their local postsecondary Institutions of Higher Education (IHEs) to provide cooperative programs jointly in high schools and colleges/universities that will expand students' opportunities for education success through high quality instructional programming. NC Cooperative Innovative High Schools Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted (AIG): In NC, school districts must identify and serve academically or intellectually gifted (AIG) K-12 students. These are students who are performing, or have the potential of performing, at high levels of accomplishment in intellectual and/or specific academic areas, such as reading and/or math when compared with other students of their age, or in their grade level, experience, or environment.
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	The Halifax County Schools Local AIG Plan outlines specific opportunities for differentiated, rigorous instruction and accelerated programs. Students are often provided the following services: • Differentiated curriculum and instruction with flexible student groups; • Accelerated opportunities (subject and/or grade acceleration, credit by demonstrated mastery (CDM), AP/IB/CIE courses, dual enrollment courses) • Enrichment experiences, which may be during the school day or beyond, and may be within the regular calendar year or may include summer opportunities; and • Other opportunities for extension of content standard. Services for AIG students may be provided by AIG personnel or within the regular classroom by teachers trained to meet the needs of gifted students. (*Share other service delivery personnel as needed) Contact the district/school AIG Specialist with questions (Angela Strother, strothera@halifax.k12.nc.us). Honors Level Courses: Halifax County students have access to a variety of honors level courses in high school. Honors level courses typically have a faster pace than standard level courses. They offer additional rigor, complexity and creativity than standard level courses.
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Career and College Promise (CCP): Halifax County Schools partner with Halifax Community College to offer dual enrollment opportunities through the CCP program. If your high school student qualifies, students may earn high school and college credit.

CCP courses may be taken in the College Transfer or Career and Technical Education pathway. These courses count for both high school and college credit. Tuition is free for families.

To learn more about this program, contact your child's high school counselor or principal.

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:

The Advanced Placement (AP) Program, through College Board, offers students the opportunity to engage in rigorous college-level course work in a high school setting. AP courses are designed for highly motivated and prepared students who seek academic rigor and college credit based on the yearly Advanced Placement Exams. Halifax County Schools believes that all students deserve access to the rigor of advanced coursework and can be successful with the appropriate support. Tests are administered by the high school on behalf of the College Board. AP courses support students in cultivating important skills and habits that are essential for college and career readiness. Additionally, students may receive higher consideration for admission to colleges and universities, as well as possible college or university course credit and/or placement. All AP classes follow the recommended syllabi from the College Board. Students are expected to complete extra reading, writing, and project assignments outside of the classroom. CCS offers numerous AP courses throughout the district in the areas of Arts Education, World Languages, English Language Arts, Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, and others. Specific course offerings



	vary from school to school. Students should consider this when thinking about taking advanced courses: ● Ability – How do you work independently? ● Study Habits – How diligently are you willing to work to be successful? ● Work Ethic – How will you manage the increased homework (1-2 hours per night per AP Course)? ● Interest– How interested are you in the curriculum? Check it out on www.collegeboard.org if needed. ● Extra-Curricular Commitments – How busy are you outside of school? ● Post-Secondary Goals – How do you plan on meeting your after high school goals? If a four-year university is a consideration, you may be more qualified if you take AP courses. Several AP courses satisfy graduation requirements for NC students as outlined in State Board policy. AP exams are free for NC public high school students enrolled in these courses. If a student registers for an exam late, there will be a fee. Colleges and universities may likely offer college credit for these courses if your child scores a 3 or above on the exam. All of the colleges in the UNC System award college credit. More information is available on the CollegeBoard website.
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AP Capstone is an innovative diploma program from the College Board that equips students with the independent research, collaborative teamwork, and communication skills that are increasingly valued by colleges. It is available in a few of our high schools. AP Capstone is built on the foundation of AP Seminar and AP Research and is designed to complement and enhance the in-depth, discipline-specific study experienced in other AP courses.

Rather than teaching subject-specific content, these courses develop students' skills in research, analysis, evidence-based arguments, collaboration, writing, and presenting. Students who complete the two-year program can earn one of two different AP Capstone awards, which are valued by colleges across the United States and around the world.

- Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research and **on four additional AP Exams** of their choosing receive the AP Capstone **Diploma**™.
- Students who earn scores of 3 or higher in AP Seminar and AP Research **but not on four additional AP Exams** receive the AP Seminar and Research **Certificate**™.

AP Capstone with STEM Distinction is a Science and Technology driven approach to AP Capstone, available at several of our high schools.

NCVPS [North Carolina Virtual Public School \(NCVPS\)](#) is NC's state supplemental program and leader in online education, providing inclusive learning opportunities for students across the state. Founded in 2007, with a strong commitment to ensuring quality education for all students, regardless of location, NCVPS has over 16 years of experience serving diverse learners.



	Students may enroll in NCVPS courses for a variety of reasons. Work with your school counselor if you are interested in taking NCVPS courses. Credit by Demonstrated Mastery is the process by which a student may earn credit for a high school course by demonstrating a deep understanding of the content without course enrollment or seat time. Students will demonstrate mastery through a multiphase process, consisting of: Phase 1: A standard examination (EOC where applicable) or a final exam developed locally; Score of 90% or higher on exam in order to proceed to Phase 2; AND Phase 2: A portfolio which requires the student to apply knowledge and skills relevant to the content standards. Governor’s School: Each summer, NC Governor’s School offers a unique opportunity for high-achieving rising juniors and seniors to learn with their peers from across the state in an 4-week residential program at two college campus sites. Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics is a no-cost, state-funded program for academically talented North Carolina students who aspire to careers in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Students presently in the 10th or 11th grade in high school whose custodial parents or guardians established legal residency in North Carolina no later than December 1 of the current year can apply to this program. These students must have high academic ability and motivation and have a keen interest in science and mathematics. The program is not designed to provide incentive for students whose academic performance reflects a lack of self-motivation or discipline. Consideration
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	is given to students whose abilities are not accurately reflected in grades and standardized test scores, such as those for whom English is a second language and those who have exceptional qualities. Applications are completed online through CFNC.org beginning in October (students must know their CFNC ID). Students should see their counselor for more information. Official application information can be found at: https://www.ncssm.edu/summerventures. <u>Class Ranking</u> The class rank will be generated by PowerSchool to determine the valedictorian and salutatorian for the end of the school year. A student must attend a minimum of 180 days in the Halifax County School System prior to computation for valedictorian and salutatorian. For commencement purposes, the valedictorian and salutatorian will be determined at the end of the first semester. Principals shall ensure that <u>class ranking</u> is computed in a fair and consistent manner as provided in State Board of Education Policy <u>GRAD-009</u>.
6) What school choices are available for my child?	Students are assigned schools based on their residence. Halifax County School provides many options for students and families. There are additional options for families to choose for their child’s education.



	Charter Schools Charter schools are public schools of choice that are authorized by the State Board of Education and operated by independent non-profit boards of directors. State and local tax dollars are the primary funding sources for charter schools, which have open enrollment and cannot discriminate in admissions, associate with any religion or religious group, or charge-tuition. Charter schools operate with freedom from many of the regulations that govern district schools, but charter schools are held accountable through the State assessment and accountability system. If you are interested in NC charter schools, visit NC charter school for information, resources, and contacts. Nonpublic Education and Scholarship Grants Nonpublic education is overseen by the NC Department of Administration. For a list of private schools, visit this NC Private Schools. For information on how to start a homeschool visit: Homeschool Information Scholarship grant programs/voucher information is available via the NC State Education Assistance Authority
7) What rights do students with disabilities have based on the law?	For students suspected of or identified with a disability by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the following links provide important information regarding the procedural safeguards available to ensure a free, appropriate, public education.



	Exceptional Children Programs/Rights of Students With Disabilities (Policy 3520) Parents Rights and Responsibilities in Special Education: Notice of Procedural Safeguards Parent Rights Handbook (Spanish) The Exceptional Children Division of North Carolina Department of Public Instruction is looking for all children and youth ages birth through 21 with special needs who may not be receiving the help needed. These include children and youth with physical disabilities, emotional disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities, and children and youth with suspected disabilities who are highly mobile, migrant and/or homeless. If your child has a disability, or you suspect that he/she may have a disability please contact your child's school or the Exceptional Children Director at richardsons@halifax.k12.nc.us. Parents Bill of Rights Policy Code: 4155 Assignment to Classes Preschool Education Halifax County Schools is dedicated to providing a high-quality preschool experience for young children. We understand the importance of providing children with quality learning experiences that will give them the ability to not only express their ideas, but also to problem solve and discover the world around them. The Halifax County Schools Preschool Program offers a variety of screening and evaluation services for children 3, 4 and 5 years old (who are not eligible for Kindergarten) and reside in our school district. These screenings and evaluations determine if a child needs special education services and/or related services. The focus of these services is to help children with special needs become successful in a regular early childhood education program.
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	Halifax County Schools is a schoolwide Title I district with Title I PreK programs. For more information, please contact Sharon Richardson at richardsons@halifax.k12.nc.us or Priscilla Henderson, hendersonp@halifax.k12.nc.us, 252.583.5111.
8) What is the contact information for the schools and district office?	Parents and guardians may contact Dr. Tyrana B. Battle, Assistant Superintendent, Halifax County Schools at (252) 583-5111.
9) What are some resources to support my child's health and wellbeing? What immunizations are required and when should they be scheduled?	Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Immunizations Health Assessment Annual Health Assessment and Immunization Compliance Reporting - Expected Immunization Schedules - Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements - Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements - Twelfth Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements Information about Influenza, Meningococcal disease, and HPV are accessible at the embedded links or on the School Health webpage.