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 Carolina International Charter School to offer parents and guardians access to information regarding student achievement via the School'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 Part 1A (pp. 15-28) regarding retention, promotion, alternatives to show reading proficiency, etc. N.C. Grade Level Promotion Guide. For information about Carolina International School's Promotion and Accountability procedures and Graduation Requirements, please click here. Graduation Requirements: Student/Parent Handbook 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. Information on NC High School Graduation Requirements. For more information on Carolina International School's graduation requirements, please refer to Graduation Requirements: Student/Parent Handbook

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 at Carolina International School as well as our policies for reviewing the curriculum: Student/Parent Handbook **HEALTHFUL LIVING: Reproductive Health and Safety** For more information see Student Health Information Goals of Student Health Services and Student Wellness. Carolina International School 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 school 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 Student/Parent Handbook . The school health education program (PE Classes – Health and Education) 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. The 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. NC Course Management System
1c) **How will a parent learn about my child's progress in school or with a class?**	Carolina International School shares 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. Student/Parent Handbook 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 K-2 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 3-12 receive a Traditional Report Card calculated using a 10-point grading scale. Parents have access to their child's grades 24/7 using Infinite Campus - Parent Portal. Parents can login to Parent Portal by visiting the schools' website, and click Infinite Campus - Parent Portal under the 'Comet Connect' tab. If you do not yet have a Parent Portal login, contact your child's school. 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. CIS provides each senior with three official transcripts at no charge (for college applications, programs, scholarships.). 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:** Individual Student Reports for end-of-grade/course tests and other state assessments (English language proficiency assessment) are accessible in the parent portal of the NC-SIS (Infinite Campus) at this https://www.ciscomets.com/comet-connect 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) is 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.
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 and specialized content teachers (either short or long term) may not hold a NC teaching license. Please contact our Human Resources office at 704-455-3847 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") - Special Information about CIS Charter School Enrollment and Admissions can be found here: https://www.ciscomets.com/admissions -

	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. **CIS Resources:** Parent Resources Student/Parent Handbook

	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 **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 NWEA Map Fluency reading assessments: 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 *(School Principal - Mrs. LaKisha Donaldson, lakishadonaldson@ciscomets.com)*. DCRI Printables for Families
2b) **How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?**	Carolina International School 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 CIS' school counseling team 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 help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?**	Carolina International School 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.
2d) **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 https://www.ciscomets.com/. CIS maintains a website that provides information about activities and events specific to that particular school community. Additionally, Carolina International uses the following platforms for communication between home/school • Facebook (www.facebook.com/CarolinaInternationalSchool) • Instagram (www.instagram.com/Carolina_International_School) • YouTube (www.youtube.com/@CISLiveEvents) **Tips for Parents:** ● Visit school's website for parent/family resources. ● Stay informed of school activities by visiting school websites, registering your Infinite Campus account, and reviewing weekly newsletters and notes from our school Principal and your student's teachers. ● Check Infinite Campus 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. . 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?**	Many of our CIS teachers are available as tutors after school or on weekends to support students academically. CFNC & NCSEAA: What You Need to Know About the Better FAFSA NC Promise Program RCCC CCP Information

	Annual Futures Fair: In order for students and families to learn about college, career and military options, CIS hosts our annual college fair in the Fall. We also have local community partners to share information about careers and military options to help students consider options for their future. CIS also hosts **Financial Aid nights** for parents and students to learn more about various scholarships, financial aid, and how to fill out the FAFSA (Federal Application for Federal Student Aid). These parent nights have sessions for both English and Spanish speaking families.
4) **What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?**	Volunteer with CIS Parent Organizations (PTSO) Parental Involvement Background Check Form
5. **What are the rigorous academic programs available to my child? How can I learn more about them?**	**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. Carolina International' s Local AIG Plan outlines specific opportunities for differentiated, rigorous instruction and accelerated programs. You can find the plan at CIS Gifted Education (AIG) Plan.

	CIS has developed an (AIG program brochure) to help parents better understand the AIG program. This describes how students will be identified and served across grades K-12. Coming Soon: AIG Newsletter for parent information. Additionally, 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 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 (Ms. Ivory Smith, 704-455-3847). **Honors Level Courses:** CIS students have access to a variety of honors level courses in high school. These courses are available in the course catalog located at Curriculum Course Guide. Honors level courses typically have a faster pace than standard level courses. They offer additional rigor, complexity and creativity than standard level courses. **Career and College Promise (CCP):** Carolina International partners with Rowan Cabarrus 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. Additional information is available on the RCCC CCP website. **Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:** The Advanced Placement (AP) Program, through the 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. CIS 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. CIS offers numerous AP courses in the areas of Arts Education, World Languages, English Language Arts, Science, Mathematics, Social Studies, and others. **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 College Board website. **AP Capstone** is an innovative diploma program from the College Board that equips students with 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. For more information on Credit Demonstrated by Mastery, please visit see our AIG Specialist. **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. For more information on eligibility and the application process, contact Geneieve Fast or visit the Governor's School website, www.ncgovschool.org. Each year, CIS selects 15 juniors with the highest academic averages to serve as Junior Marshals. **Junior Marshal** is an honor bestowed on the top academic students from the high school junior class. Junior Marshals attend the Senior Awards Ceremony and Graduation in an honorary and service capacity. **Honor Graduates** are classified as follows and weighted GPAs are not rounded up (graduation cords are given prior to graduation): Summa Cum Laude 4.320+ Magna Cum Laude 4.000-4.319 Cum Laude 3.625-3.999

6) **What school choices are available for my child?**	There are additional options for families to choose for their child's education. **Charter Schools** Charter schools, like Carolina International, 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. **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 student 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 • Parent Rights • Parent Rights (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 For more information, contact Deborah Lamm, 704-455-3847, ext. 9546. Project Child Find
8) **What is the contact information for the schools and district office?**	Parents and guardians may contact Carolina International School at (704) 455-3847. Carolina International School Website
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.
	
	Information about our School Health partner, Cabarrus Health Alliance, is accessible on this webpage.