Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA)

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

The goal of the North Carolina Cyber Academy School System is to offer parents and guardians access to information regarding student achievement via the district's **Parent's Guide to Student Achievement** (PGSA).
Paper copies of this document and its contents can be requested from our Main Office (984-262-9237)

How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?	Detailed information regarding promotion standards is included in the NC Cyber Academy Handbook Sections 5.3-5.5 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. • NC High School Graduation Requirements.
What is my child learning at school? How can a parent review these materials?	In North Carolina, all public schools use the same North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS), which is 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 North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) site:

	• Arts Education • CTE and Career Pathways • Computer Science, IT, and Technology Education • English Language Arts • English Language Development • Guidance • Healthful Living • Information and Technology • Mathematics • Science • Social Studies • World Languages Local districts, schools, and teachers determine how to teach these standards, including curriculum, supplementary materials, books, etc. Parents/Guardians may review instructional material that is being used within each course on the NC Cyber Academy's website (District Curriculum Maps). Parents/Guardians can also access their student's live learning sessions via available recordings. NC Cyber High School offers courses in the area of Career and Technical Education (CTE). These courses allow students to explore careers and earn credentials. Additional information is provided below: • High School Course Catalog • NCDPI Career and Technical Education Info for Parents site.

How will a parent learn about their student's progress in school or with a class?	NC Cyber shares the progress of students in a variety of ways. Parents/Guardians and Learning Coaches should also access their **Canvas Observer Accounts** in order to view teacher notifications and monitor their student's instructional tasks and daily progress in each course. The **Infinite Campus Parent Portal** will also provide them with their student's final course grades, attendance, test scores, and student schedules. Staff and families will utilize ParentSquare to communicate about student progress. • Canvas Observer Account • Infinite Campus Parent Portal • ParentSquare NC Cyber Academy Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy provides additional information about effective communication and monitoring your students: i. Teachers will communicate with parents any time during the school year once a student is failing a course or has had a significant negative change in their behavior or performance. Parents can request a teacher conference as needed throughout the school year. Teachers make themselves available for parent conferences weekly by request. Parents can request a teacher conference as needed throughout the school year. ii. Frequent and current student progress is reported in Canvas and is available for parents to review and discuss daily. Teachers will provide feedback on student work and ensure that grades are posted in Canvas in a timely manner. Progress reports will be issued to parents during the midpoint of every quarter. Parents have access to monitor progress within the Canvas platform. iii. Parent-teacher conferences:



- K-8: Conferences will be scheduled for all students at the end of the 1st quarter. Students who are at risk of grade level retention, failing courses, or have had significant negative changes in their behavior or performance will have a required conference scheduled during quarters 2, 3, and 4.
- 9-12: High School reserves a day each quarter for formal parent-teacher conferences. This full day is scheduled within one (1) week after the distribution of student interim reports. This allows parents an opportunity to review the most accurate and current grades, and then schedule a conference with a particular teacher based on the content of the interim reports.

Parents/Guardians should also be aware of the following measures of student progress:

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 (PowerSchool)

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.

District Assessments: Throughout the school year, students will be assessed on their mastery of course content with various benchmark, formative, and summative assessments. Assessment results

	are analyzed by staff to support data-driven instructional decisions for student success. Students are required to participate in all benchmark and course assessments to provide a complete academic picture of their progress toward content mastery. Assessments help NC Cyber identify student strengths and weaknesses to better individualize educational plans and supports. These tools also assist NC Cyber in determining a student's level of academic mastery and may play a role in course placement decisions and eligibility for certain programs such as the academically/intellectually gifted program (AIG). Universal screeners are a type of academic or behavioral/social-emotional skill assessment that is administered to students 2-3x/year to assist in determining a student's level of academic mastery as well as the need for additional supplemental services. Universal screeners are taken online by students and are mandatory. A student's special circumstances may necessitate participating in additional assessments that may be required for multi-tiered systems of support (MTSS), to participate in the AIG program, and/or as may be required based on a student's IEP. 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. 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.

	● NC K-3 Literacy Assessment - mCLASS DIBELS 8th Edition ● NCDPI Early Literacy
What are the qualifications of my child's teachers?	Parents/Guardians may review a teacher's licensure status through the NC Public Schools licensure site. Please note this site does not provide personal information about teachers. Parents/guardians are encouraged to contact their student's principal if they have additional questions about teacher qualifications. Substitute teachers (either short or long-term) may or may not hold an NC teaching license. A staff qualifications letter is a federal requirement for Title I Schools and is shared with families at the beginning of the school year. This letter includes the following: ● Whether the teacher has met the state qualifications for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction; ● Whether the teacher is teaching under an emergency or other provisional status through which the state qualifications have been waived; ● What baccalaureate degrees have been earned by the teacher, along with the field of study and any other certifications; ● Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications; and ● Whether your child has received four weeks or more of instruction by a non-highly qualified teacher.

What are the requirements for school enrollment? What are the immunizations needed or recommended for children?	The requirements for enrollment in and eligibility to attend NC Cyber can be found in Section 2 of the NC Cyber Academy Handbook. **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) (*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 required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). ● NCDHHS Immunization Resources ● Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements ● Seventh-Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements ● Twelfth-Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements
How can a parent help their child learn and make progress?	Per our NC Cyber Academy Title I Compact, parents/guardians are highly encouraged to ● Monitor student participation and attendance. ● Ensure that my child completes assignments and coursework. ● Participate, as appropriate, in decisions relating to my children's education. ● Promote positive use of my child's extracurricular time.

	● Stay informed about my child's education and communicate with the school about any changes that occur. ● Respond to school communication within a reasonable time and communicate with school staff regularly. Each NC Cyber student is required to have a Learning Coach. The Learning Coach is an important member of the student's educational team. A Learning Coach is most often a parent, but could also be any reliable adult who is responsible for monitoring their student's progress and assisting them in meeting school requirements. Within our virtual setting, our Learning Coaches must be heavily involved with the student's daily instructional plan, much more so than often found in a traditional brick-and-mortar school. The NC Cyber Academy Learning Coach should be comfortable with technology & the various instructional platforms we utilize. They must also be aware of our policies, be readily available to assist their student, and communicate with teachers regularly about their student's progress. We understand that this is a heavy lift and want to be able to support you in your role as the Learning Coach. **Additional NCCA Resources:** ● NC Cyber Academy Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy ● NC Cyber Academy Learning Coach Center ○ Helping My Student ● Learning Coach Matrix ● Course Selection ○ Middle School Course Catalog

	○ High School Course Catalog **NCDPI Parent's Corner:** Below, you will find additional information to support parents/guardians in supporting their student(s) ● Academic Standards Info for Parents ● Closing North Carolina's Digital Divide ● Early Learning Info for Families ● Education Acronyms ● Enrollment Info for Parents ● Literacy at Home ○ Digital Children's Reading Initiative (DCRI) Printables for Families ● Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) for Families ● Safe Schools Info for Students and Parents ● Students with Disabilities ● Testing Info for Parents ● Rethink Education Resources for Parents and Guardians ○ How to Create an At-Home Learning Environment ○ How You Can Use Questions to Support Your Child's Learning ○ Staying Organized for Remote Learning ○ Using Technology for Summer Enrichment

How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills, and respect for others?	**Second Step Curriculum:** Supporting the whole child is a priority, and our goal is to provide students with social and emotional learning (SEL). Equipping students with these skills will support them in thriving in school and life. For this reason, our K-8 counselors use the evidence-based *Second Step* curriculum to provide instruction. The *Second Step* curriculum, which is aligned with the CASEL Core Social Emotional Competencies, helps students build social-emotional skills, such as nurturing positive relationships, managing emotions, and meeting goals. Additional information is provided below: ● Defining Social and Emotional Learning ● CASEL Program Guide (evidence-based SEL programs) ● NCDPI's NCSCOS and SEL Alignment ● Families and Caregivers Resources **NC Cyber Academy Student Support Team:** Parents are encouraged to partner with our Student Support Team 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. ● NC Cyber Academy Student Support Team **Community Service Graduation Requirement:** An additional North Carolina Cyber Academy requirement for high school graduation is a minimum of 100 hours of community service or 25 hours for each year enrolled in the high school at NC Cyber for students enrolling after their freshman year. Students will receive a notation on their high school transcript conveying the fulfillment of this requirement. This requirement supports the cultivation of civic literacy, increases knowledge of how to

	actively participate and initiate change in one's community, and supports the cultivation of 21st-century skills such as communication, collaboration, productivity and accountability, and leadership and responsibility.
How can a parent strengthen communication with the school/teacher?	Effective communication between families and schools is essential in ensuring that your student receives a quality learning experience and is provided with the opportunities to reach optimal success. Most importantly, parents/guardians should always ensure that the school has the most current contact information in the student information system. This will allow teachers and the school to easily contact parents/guardians for general communication and in case of an emergency. **Families should submit changes to your email, address or phone number directly in ParentSquare. Changes in your physical or mailing address can be submitted by calling 888-846-2998.** The **Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy** and our **Learning Coach Matrix** explicitly provide insight, expectations, and links that will support effective communication between our families and NCCA. ● Title I Parent and Family Engagement Policy ● Learning Coach Matrix **Parent Square** is the primary way we communicate with our NC Cyber families and secondary students. Parents are encouraged to download the application on their phone. Parents/Guardians and Learning Coaches should also access their **Canvas Observer Accounts** in order to view teacher notifications and monitor their student's instructional tasks and daily progress in each course. We also highly encourage them to complete the **Parent & Learning Coach Orientation** in order to be aware of our learning and

	communication platforms.
	
	• ParentSquare
	• Canvas Observer Account
	• Parent & Learning Coach Orientation
	
	The **NC Cyber Academy website** also provides a substantial amount of information. Each grade band maintains a website that provides additional information particular to the community they serve. Included in the website is a guide for how our families can get more involved in the NC Cyber Community.
	• NC Cyber Academy Website
	  ○ Grade Band Websites
	
	Additionally, NC Cyber uses the following platforms for communication with our community:
	
	• X (Formerly known as Twitter)
	• Facebook
	• Instagram
	• Youtube
	
	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:
	
	• Rethink Education Resources for Parents and Guardians
	  ○ Building Strong Relationships with Your Child's Teacher

What services are available for parents and their children?	**Specialized Instructional Support Personnel (SISP)**: SISPs consist of staff members who provide a continuum of support for all students. They provide school-based physical, social, emotional and mental health prevention, intervention, transition, and follow-up services - school counselors, school social workers, school psychologists **Academic Advisement:** School counselors provide assistance and support to students in three main areas: academic, career, and personal/social. **Tutoring:** NC Cyber Academy partners with Varsity Tutors for Schools. NC Cyber students can take advantage of on-demand 24/7 chat-based tutoring, essay editing, live enrichment classes, and self-study resources for a variety of subjects, as well as the ACT and SAT. ● Varsity Tutors Platform Access Flyer.pdf ● Varsity Tutors Parent FAQ- English.pdf ● Varsity Tutors Parent FAQs- Spanish.pdf ● How to Chat with Tutor Video (English) ● How to Chat with a Tutor Video (Spanish) ● How to Submit an Essay for Review Video **Learning Coach Support Sessions:** Individual grade bands and the district provide information and support sessions in order for our Learning Coaches to be well-equipped and confident in meeting the needs of their student(s). **Additional instructional services and or programs provided are listed below:**

	• Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) • Section 504 • Exceptional Children (EC) • Multi-Lingual Learner Services • Academically and Intellectually Gifted (AIG) • Military Families • McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance • Crisis Response and Intervention
What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?	Located on the NC Cyber Academy website is a guide for how our families can get more involved in the NC Cyber Community. Parents/Guardians can serve as Parent Representatives and participate in Parent-Teacher Groups. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to join grade band and district parent meetings. • How to Get Involved
What are the rigorous academic programs available to my child? How can I learn more about them?	NC Cyber Academy provides a range of options for students to explore and develop their interests and skills at their academic level. • NCDPI Advanced Learning and Gifted Education **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. NC Cyber's Local AIG Plan outlines specific opportunities for differentiated, rigorous instruction and accelerated programs. NC Cyber Academy services are provided by AIG personnel (K-8) and or within the regular classroom by teachers supported to meet the needs of gifted students. Additional information is provided below: ● NC Cyber Academy Website ● NCDPI AIG Learning Resources **Credit by Demonstrated Mastery**: In compliance with North Carolina Board of Education policy, NC Cyber allows students the opportunity to earn credit in a particular course without requiring the student to complete course instruction. This opportunity is open to all NC Cyber students in grades 9-12 for high school courses and in grades 6-8 for high school courses offered in middle school. Additional details and information can be found in the High School Student Handbook ● NCDPI Credit by Mastery **Career and College Promise (CCP)/Dual Enrollment:** Career & College Promise (CCP) is North

	Carolina's dual enrollment program for high school students. This program allows eligible North Carolina high school students to enroll in college classes at North Carolina community colleges and universities through their high school. Tuition is free for families. Students who successfully complete college courses earn college credits they can take with them after graduation. In many cases, students can also earn dual credit — meeting high school graduation requirements with college courses. Students who wish to take advantage of this opportunity must retain "full-time" status at NC Cyber Academy, which is defined as two (2) or more courses per semester enrolled at NC Cyber. Violations of these policies may be grounds for dismissal from the program. Enrollment in external programs such as CCP and/or NCVPS is at the discretion of the principal. Additional information on eligibility requirements, information, and program specifics are below: ● NC Cyber Academy High School Handbook ● NCDPI CCP ○ Career & Technical Education (CTE) Pathway ○ College Transfer Pathway **High School Courses Taken in Middle School:** Students may earn high school credit for high school-level courses taken during the middle school years. A middle school course for which high school credit is granted must cover the same content as the equivalent high school course and must be approved by the school counselor and administration in advance. End-of-course exams, if applicable, are required just as they would be if the course was taken in high school. Grades received by middle school students taking high school courses for credit are not factored into the high school GPA but will appear on the student's high school transcript. These courses can be found in the middle school course catalog.

- Middle School Course Catalog

Honors Level Courses: NC Cyber Academy high school students have access to a variety of honors-level courses. Honors-level courses typically have a faster pace than standard-level courses. They offer additional rigor, complexity, and creativity than standard-level courses. Descriptions of the Honor courses offered at NC Cyber are available in the high school's course catalog.

- NC Cyber Academy HS Course Catalog
- NCDPI Honors Level Coursework

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses: The Advanced Placement (AP) Program, through College Board, offers students the opportunity to engage in rigorous college-level coursework 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. Several AP courses satisfy graduation requirements for NC students as outlined in State Board policy. 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.

- CollegeBoard

All Advanced Placement courses are equal to one high school credit and are full-year-long courses. AP Examinations are conducted in May of each academic year. Advanced Placement courses also carry an additional 1-point GPA weight. High School students enrolled in AP courses are expected to take the AP test. 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. Failure to take the AP test may result in the enrolled

	course being lowered to an "Honors" weight. Descriptions and prerequisites of the AP courses offered at NCCA are available in the high school's course catalog. ● NC Cyber Academy HS Course Catalog. ● NCDPI Advanced Coursework **NCVPS North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS):** 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 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? ● **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. **Additional Programs:**

	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 a 4-week residential program at two college campus sites. ● NCDPI NC Governor's School **Summer Ventures in Science and Mathematics:** Summer Ventures 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 an incentive for students whose academic performance reflects a lack of self-motivation or discipline. Consideration 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 exceptionalities. Applications are completed online through CFNC.org beginning in October (students must know their CFNC ID). Students should see their counselor for more information. ● Summer Ventures
What school choices are available for my child?	NC Cyber Academy is a virtual public charter school. 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. NCDPI provides additional information on charter school resources and contacts. Since NCCA is a school of choice, families have the choice to enroll their student(s) in their local public school or district, a registered home school, or a private school. **Nonpublic Education Information:** Nonpublic education is overseen by the NC Department of Administration. ● NC Private Schools. ● Homeschool Information
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. ● NC Cyber Academy website ● NC Cyber Academy Handbook, Section 7 ● Policies and Procedures ● Programs and Services ● IDEA Dispute Resolution ● Special Education Surrogate Parents

	• Resources for Families and Students In compliance with the Exceptional Children Division of the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Project Child Find, NC Cyber actively seeks to locate and identify children and youth ages birth through 21 with disabilities who require special education and related services. This includes children and youth who have been diagnosed or are suspected to have intellectual, physical, or emotional disabilities and are unable to benefit from a regular school program without special assistance. • Parents/Guardians of students who have not yet enrolled in kindergarten who may be in need of special education services should contact the Children's Development Services Agency • Parents of children in kindergarten through 12th grade should contact their grade band's Exceptional Children Compliance Coordinator
What is the contact information for the schools and district office?	NC Cyber has three grade bands, which include elementary, middle, and high school. Each grade band has individual websites that provide staff contact information. Staff contact information can also be found on our NC Cyber Academy website
What are some resources to support my child's health and wellbeing? What immunizations are required and when should they be scheduled?	In accordance with Session Law 2020-7, NC Cyber Academy has adopted and implemented a school-based mental health plan. NC Cyber's REACH Team (**R**ecognize warning signs, **E**ngage with empathy, **A**sk and assist those at risk, **C**ultivate resilience and communicate hope, and **H**elp students access care) is composed of school counselors, school social workers, and school psychologists. In addition to the REACH team, NC Cyber provides annual training to staff that is focused on the mental health needs of children and adolescents. Staff are also provided with information regarding suicide

	prevention, with the goal of recognizing the warning signs of suicide and how to seek help for students. ● NC Cyber Academy's Mental Health Plan ● Specialized Instructional Support Personnel If you are concerned about your child and their risk to self or others, please contact a school counselor or school social worker about your concerns. If your child is at imminent risk (verbalizing or indicating thoughts of suicide and has a plan), please immediately contact 911. If you need assistance outside of school hours and your child is not at imminent risk, please call the National Suicide Prevention Hotline: 988 or Hope4NC: 1-855-587-3463. 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