



STRONG FOUNDATIONS.

Limitless futures.

Dr. Eisa M. Cox, Superintendent • Joshua D. Roten, Chairman • Dianne Eldreth, Vice Chairman • Teresa Calhoun • Polly Jones • Janet Ward

August 6, 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back to a new school year! We hope your child is returning refreshed and ready to learn. Assessments are one component of helping educators understand your child's progress in reading, math, and science, and the following is a list of students who will participate in this year in Ashe County Schools:

Grades 3–8

- End-of-Grade (EOG) tests in Reading and Math for all students; students in grades 5 and 8 also take the Science EOG.
- 8th graders enrolled in NC Math 1 will take the Math 1 End-of-Course (EOC) test, which counts as 20% of their final grade.
- EOG tests are given during the last 10 days of the school year.
- There is not a state “opt-out” option. All tests must be taken online and in person as a remote option doesn't exist.
- Third graders will take the Beginning-of-Grade Reading Test (BOG3) within the first fifteen days of school.

High School (Grades 9–12)

- Students enrolled in Biology, English II, Math I, or Math III will take EOC tests; which count as 20% of their final grade.
- CTE state assessments, EOCs and teacher-made exams are given during the last 5 days of the Fall and Spring semesters.
- Other required assessments:
 - PreACT for 10th grade
 - ACT for 11th grade
 - ACT WorkKeys for eligible 12th grade CTE concentrators

Local Assessments

- Students in grades 3–8 will take locally developed benchmarks two times each quarter.
- High school students in Biology, English II, Math I, and Math III will take NC Check-Ins twice each semester.

Alternate Assessments

- NCEXTEND1 in Reading and Math is offered in grades 3–8, 10, and 11; Science in grades 5, 8, 10, and 11.
- College and Career Readiness assessments may replace the PreACT and ACT in grades 10 and 11.
- The WIDA Screener is given to all K–12 students identified through the home language survey.
- ACCESS for ELLs and Alternate ACCESS are given to English Learner students.

Thank you for supporting the Ashe County Schools Accountability Program. The 2026–2027 testing calendar is available on the district website under “Departments” → “Accountability.” and accompanies this letter. Timely reminders prior to any upcoming assessments via the Parent Square app. If you have any questions, please contact your child's assistant principal.

Have a great year!

Earl Pennington, Director of Testing and Accountability

www.asheschools.org

PO Box 604 • 320 South Street • Jefferson, NC 28640 • 336.246.7175 • 336.246.7609 fax • Courier No. 15-65-01

