Asheville City Schools

Asheville City Schools Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA) [1]
Rev. 8/3/26

Family involvement is one of the most powerful factors in a child's educational success. This guide provides answers to commonly asked questions. If you have additional questions or require information beyond what is provided here, please do not hesitate to contact your child's school.

If you need a printed copy of this document please contact your child's school.

Question of Concern	How this works in Asheville City Schools
How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?	Promotions requirements can be found in Asheville City Schools Policy 3420. The following are the relevant State and local requirements for a child to be promoted to the next grade level: NC General Statutes - Chapter 115C Article 8
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 standards can be found on the NCDPI Office of Academic Standards website. There are standards for: ● Arts Education ● CTE and Career Pathways ● Computer Science, IT, and Technology Education ● English Language Arts

[1] ***Considerations from NCDPI***
Based on Parents' Bill of Rights - SB 49; Session Law 2023-106

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	• English Language Development • NC Student Success • 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. In Asheville City Schools Policies 3115 Curriculum and Instructional Guides and 3200 Selection and Use of Instructional Resources guide the district's selection of curricula and instructional resources. Each district must also have a **Literacy Intervention Plan** (LIP). The plan must include Reading Camps as an extension of what occurs during the school year. Parents and caregivers may view Asheville City Schools Literacy Intervention Plan 2025-26. Asheville City Schools also offers courses in the area of Career and Technical Education (CTE). These courses allow students to explore careers and earn credentials. CTE Career Clusters, Pathways, Course Information, Credentials, and Course Standards may be found at this link: NCDPI Career and Technical Education Resources Asheville City Schools Policy 3210 and Procedure 3210-P outline the process for parental inspection and objection of instructional materials.
How will a parent learn about my child's progress in school or with a class?	Asheville City Schools shares progress of students through a variety of ways, including quarterly report cards, progress reports, and assignment/assessment feedback. Feedback on conduct and Habits of Character are also included. Defined by ACS Policy 1310/4002 Parental Involvement. Parents requesting information regarding their child meeting state and local requirements should first contact their child's classroom teacher. If the teacher is unable to provide the information then they should

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	reach out to their school principal. This includes local assessment information and/or data. Parents are also able to access their child's progress via the NC student information system (NC-SIS). The student information system is available at this link. Please contact the school's Data Manager if you have any questions. **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). In NC, all 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. In 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. 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. Asheville City Schools IRP Parent Letters: ACS Option A Parent Letter - Differentiated Core IRP (Spanish version) ACS Option C Parent Letter - Supplemental and Intensive Support (Spanish version) Parents may view Asheville City Schools Literacy Intervention Plan 2025-26 here. 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

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	screening, screening for risk of dyslexia, and progress monitoring.
What are the qualifications of my child's teachers?	NCDPI Online Licensure System website allows parents to look up your child's teacher licensure status. 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 the Asheville City Schools Human Resources office to verify an educator's licensure status.
What are the requirements for school enrollment? What are the immunizations needed or recommended for children?	ACS Policy 4100 Age Requirements for Initial Enrollment and Policy 4110 Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission define the district's requirements for school enrollment and immunizations. The following are 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) (note: 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). ● Recommended Immunization Schedules ○ Kindergarten Vaccine Requirements ○ Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements ○ Twelfth Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements

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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. **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 The NC Digital Children's Reading Initiative (DCRI) has created digital resources as part of their Literacy at Home initiative that provides literacy activities at each grade level, pre-kindergarten through fifth grade. Families and communities may access this resource for activities that specifically target the literacy skills of phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, reading comprehension, and 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 your child's school.
How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?	Asheville City Schools embeds NC's 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. Asheville City School also supports student growth and development through our Portrait of a Scholar.

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How can a parent strengthen communication with the school/teacher?	Asheville City Schools utilizes ParentSqaure as its primary communication tool. If you need support with ParentSquare contact your child's school data manager. ● Parents can view students' grades using the Infinite Campus Parent Portal. 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)
What services are available for parents and their children?	Asheville City Schools works with a variety of community partners to support our families and students outside of the traditional school day and year. Contact your child's principal for the specific opportunities at your child's school. Tutoring: NCVPS EdVantage Tutoring offers virtual statewide wraparound support to middle and high school students in NC public schools. Tutoring is available in Math, Science and ELA, and is offered via a personalized partnership with district/school leadership to best meet the needs of selected students each semester. Our schools also provide tutoring after school through the Afternoon Academy program.
What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?	Each school organizes parent opportunities in collaboration with their PTO. Principals also solicited parents to serve on their School Improvement Team. Parents are encouraged to sign up for their schools PTO and sign up for other opportunities to support their child's school. ACS Policy 1310/4002 Parental Involvement and Policy 1320/3560 Title I Parent and Family Engagement provide guidance for parental involvement and engagement.
	Asheville City Schools offers a variety of options for students to pursue their interests and

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What are the rigorous academic programs available to my child? How can I learn more about them?	skills at their academic level. **Career and Technical Education (CTE):** NC has made a significant investment in developing students and programs to meet the needs of the future workforce. Through Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, Public Schools offer opportunities for students to develop career awareness beginning in Kindergarten, explore careers in grades 6-8, and experience leadership, career development, and career-aligned content in grades 9-12. Visit ACS CTE Programs here. 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. In our district, there are the following programs available that are more rigorous and challenging than the standard content for students: **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. The Asheville City Schools Local AIG Plan outlines specific opportunities for differentiated, rigorous instruction and accelerated programs. The district's local AIG plan is housed on the ACS AIG webpage. Asheville City Schools has developed an AIG Parent Presentation to support parents' understanding of the AIG program. This describes how students will be identified and served across grades K-12. Visit the AIG for Families website. In Asheville City Schools, students are often provided the following services: ● Differentiated curriculum and instruction with flexible student groups; ● Accelerated opportunities (subject and/or grade acceleration, credit by

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	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. **Honors Level Courses:** In Asheville City Schools, students have access to a variety of honors level courses in high school. These courses are available in the course catalog located at: Asheville High/SILSA Course Catalog 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):** Asheville City Schools partners with Asheville Buncombe Technical Community College to offer dual enrollment opportunities through the CCP program. If your high school student qualifies, students may earn high school credit by completing community college coursework. The School of Inquiry and Life Sciences is a Cooperative and Innovative High School which expands students' opportunity for dual enrollment. 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. Additional information is available on the NCDPI CCP website. **Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:** Advanced Placement (AP) is a program developed by the College Board to offer college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. Asheville City Schools offers 25 offerings of AP courses at the high school level. Several AP courses satisfy graduation requirements for NC students as outlined in State Board policy.

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	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 $40 fee. If a student wishes to take an AP Exam for a course they are not enrolled in, there will be a $90 fee. Many colleges and universities offer college credit for these courses based on your child's score on the AP exam. Consult the specific college or university for their AP exam policy. Full AP course offerings may be found in the Asheville High and SILSA Course Catalog linked here: Asheville High Course Catalog SILSA Course Catalog **NCVPS:** North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) is NC's state supplemental online education program. Students may enroll in NCVPS courses for a variety of reasons. Prior approval is required for all NCVPS enrollments. Work with your school counselor if you are interested in taking NCVPS courses and for registration. Asheville City Schools offers courses through NCVPS following the guidelines outlined in procedure 3102-P Online Instruction. **Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM):** Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM) 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.There are two phases of assessments that a student must go through to earn credit for the course. Visit the NCDPI's Credit by Demonstrated Mastery webpage for more information.

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	Governor's School: The NC Governor's School is a four-week summer residential program for gifted and talented high school students, integrating academic disciplines, the arts, and unique courses on each of two campuses. Learning focuses on the exploration of the most recent ideas and concepts in each discipline, and it does not involve credit, tests, or grades. Students are selected to attend through a competitive process after being nominated by their public school unit or non-public school. For more information, visit NCDPI's Governor's School site.
What school choices are available for my child?	Students in public school districts are assigned to certain schools based on a local assignment plan approved by Local Board of Education Link to Asheville City Schools' Enrollment Site **Elementary Magnet Themed Schools** ACS's magnet schools are not defined by geographic area. Instead, those living in the Asheville City Schools district may attend the elementary school of their choice, as long as there is space available and racial balance is maintained. ● Claxton Elementary - School of Arts and Humanities ● Hall Fletcher Elementary - STEAM (Science Technology Engineering Arts Math) ● Ira B. Jones - School of Global Scholars ● Isaac Dickson Elementary - School of Experiential Learning ● Lucy S. Herring - School of Ecology **Middle School** ACS has a single middle school offering that is a traditional, comprehensive middle school. ● Asheville Middle School **High School Magnet** ACS has two high school options. Asheville High School is a traditional, comprehensive

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	high school. SILSA is a Cooperative Innovative High School, located on the campus of Asheville High School. ● Asheville High School ● School of Inquiry and Life Sciences at Asheville (SILSA)
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. Parent Rights Handbook Parent Rights Handbook (Spanish) IDEA Dispute Resolution Project Child Find Special Education Surrogate Parents Information about the Asheville City Schools' Exceptional Children Department can be found here.
What is the contact information for the schools and district office?	ACS District Office: 828-350-7000, Superintendent - Dr. Maggie Fehrman Claxton: 828-350-6500, Principal - Corey Simons Hall Fletcher: 828-350-6400, Principal - Shawn Benfield Ira B. Jones: 828-350-6700, Principal - Dr. Ruafika Cobb Isaac Dickson: 828-350-6800, Principal - Dr. Joan Bucy Lucy S. Herring: 828-350-6600, Principal - Dr. Julie Frank Asheville Middle School: 828-350-6200, Principal - Blair Johnston Asheville High School: 828-350-2500, Principal - Derek Edwards

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	School of Inquiry and Life Sciences at Asheville: 828-350-2700, Principal - April Dockery William Randolph Campus: 828-350-6900, Administrator - Sybil Jefferson
What are some resources to support my child's health and wellbeing? What immunizations are required and when should they be scheduled?	Asheville City Schools Policy 4110 Immunization and Health Requirements for School Admission define the district's requirements for school enrollment and immunizations. 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