PITT COUNTY
SCHOOLS

THE PARENTS' GUIDE TO STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT 2026-2027

MISSION

Pitt County Schools will lead collaboration between school, home and community to foster student growth and success, both socially and academically, in order to develop productive, global citizens.

VISION

Pitt County Schools will inspire and motivate all learners by providing educational opportunities that engage, empower and elevate students to lead healthy, resourceful and responsible lives.

BOARD OF EDUCATION

Mary Nobles Maultsby – *Vice Chair*, District 1
James Tripp, Jr. – District 3
Dr. Jennifer Hodgson – District 5
Kelly Weaver – *Chair*, District 7
Benjie Forrest – District 9
Amy Cole– District 2
Justin Eastwood – District 4
Worth Forbes – District 6
Dr. Amanda Klein – District 8

SUPERINTENDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Pitt County Families,

Welcome to the 2026-2027 academic year. First and foremost, thank you for choosing Pitt County Schools! Our goal is to ensure that every student receives educational opportunities that will prepare them for work, college, career, and life. We encourage every student to take advantage of these opportunities. We remain committed to you as we work to fulfill our mission to lead collaboratively and work with parents and our community to foster student growth and success, both socially and academically, in order to develop productive, global citizens.

This book is the Parents' Guide to Student Achievement, a reference intended to aid parents in supporting their children's education and extracurricular participation in our schools. The companion to this guide is the Parents' Guide to Standards of Conduct to Support Safe Schools & Annual Notices, which addresses bullying, safety, the Code of Conduct, and other key policies related to maintaining order and safety in our schools as well as providing our annual notices. Please use these as Guides as resources to assist you as you continue to be involved in your child's education. In order to stay informed about district initiatives and school activities, please visit our website at www.pittschools.org.

It is our honor and privilege to educate your children. I am confident students, parents, teachers, and staff members will work together to Reach Higher and make this a successful year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Steve M. Lassiter, Jr.
Superintendent

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

A. G. Cox Middle (6-8)
2657 Church Street
Winterville, NC 28590
(252) 756-3105

ALPHA Center (K-8)
1019 Fleming Street
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 830-3564

Ayden Elementary (K-5)
187 Third Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-2121

Ayden-Grifton High (9-12)
7653 NC Highway 11 South
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-4183

Ayden Middle (6-8)
192 Third Street
Ayden, NC 28513
(252) 746-3672

Belvoir Elementary (K-5)
2568 NC Highway 33 West
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 752-6365

Bethel School (K-8)
152 East Washington Road
Bethel, NC 27812
(252) 825-3801

C. M. Eppes Middle (6-8)
1100 South Elm Street
Greenville, NC 27858
(252) 757-2160

Chicod School (K-8)
3383 Stokestown-St. Johns Road
Greenville, NC 27858
(252) 746-6742

Creekside Elementary (K-5)
431 Forlines Road
Winterville, NC 28590
(252) 353-5253

D. H. Conley High (9-12)
2006 Worthington Road
Greenville, NC 27858
(252) 756-3440

E. B. Aycock Middle (6-8)
1325 Red Banks Road
Greenville, NC 27858
(252) 756-4181

Eastern Elementary (K-5)
1700 Cedar Lane
Greenville, NC 27858
(252) 758-4813

Elmhurst Elementary (K-5)
1815 West Berkley Road
Greenville, NC 27858
(252) 756-0180

Falkland Elementary (K-5)
503 NC Highway 121
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 752-7820

Farmville Central High (9-12)
3308 East Wilson Street
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-5138

Farmville Middle (6-8)
3914 Grimmersburg Street
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-2116

G. R. Whitfield School (K-8)
4839 School Road
Grimesland, NC 27837
(252) 752-6614

Grifton School (K-8)
513 East McCrae Street
Grifton, NC 28530
(252) 524-5141

H. B. Sugg Elementary (K-2)
3992 Grimmersburg Street
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-2671

Hope Middle (6-8)
2995 Mills Road
Greenville, NC 27858
(252) 355-7071

Innovation Early College High (9-12)
Brewster Building, Room D107
Greenville, NC 27858
(252) 737-3860

J.H. Rose High (9-12)
600 West Arlington Boulevard
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 321-3640

Lakeforest Elementary (K-5)
3300 Briarcliff Drive
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 756-3941

North Pitt High (9-12)
5659 NC 11 Highway North
Bethel, NC 27812
(252) 825-0054

Northwest Elementary (K-5)
1471 Holland Road
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 752-6329

Pactolus School (K-8)
3405 Yankee Hall Road
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 752-6941

Pitt Academy/RISE (K-12)
400 Spruce Street
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 830-3501

Pitt County Early College High (9-12)
1959 Warren Drive
Winterville, NC 28590
(252) 493-7821

Ridgewood Elementary (K-5)
3601 South Bend Drive
Winterville, NC 28590
(252) 355-7879

Sadie Saulter Center (Pre-K)
400 Spruce Street
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 758-4621

Sam D. Bundy Elementary (3-5)
3994 Grimmersburg Street
Farmville, NC 27828
(252) 753-2013

South Central High (9-12)
570 West Forlines Road
Winterville, NC 28590
(252) 321-3232

South Greenville Elementary (PreK-5)
811 Howell Street
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 756-7004

Stokes Elementary (K-8)
2683 N.C. Highway 903 North
Stokes, NC 27884
(252) 752-6907

W.H. Robinson Elementary (K-5)
2439 Railroad Street
Winterville, NC 28590
(252) 756-3707

Wahl-Coates Elementary (K-5)
2200 East Fifth Street
Greenville, NC 27858
(252) 752-2514

Wellcome Middle (6-8)
3101 North Memorial Drive
Greenville, NC 27834
(252) 752-5938

Wintergreen Intermediate (3-5)
4720 County Home Road
Greenville, NC 27858
(252) 355-2411

Wintergreen Primary (K-2)
4710 County Home Road
Greenville, NC 27858
(252) 353-5270

CENTRAL OFFICE DIRECTORY

Central Office	(252) 830-4200
Athletics	(252) 830-4208
School Nutrition	(252) 830-4226
Community Schools & Recreation	(252) 902-1975
Educational Programs & Services	(252) 830-4235
Exceptional Children Programs	(252) 695-7989
Facility Services	(252) 756-2313
Public Information	(252) 830-4219
Student Assignment	(252) 830-4255
Student Services	(252) 830-4204
Transportation	(252) 756-1424

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HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE

The *Parents' Guide to Student Achievement* is a resource for parents, legal guardians, and legal custodians to gain a better understanding of our school system. By providing this information, we hope to provide every parent, legal guardian, and legal custodian with information that helps children succeed in school. The chart below provides a breakdown of questions you may have and corresponding parts of this guide that address those questions.

If I want to know. . .	**I should review . . .**	**At Page**
How do I enroll my child in school?	School Entry Requirements	7
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Overall, the Guide provides a comprehensive overview to the academic programs and supports offered to students in Pitt County Schools, but it has a few limitations.

- The information in this Guide is not intended to, and shall not, supersede the policies of the North Carolina State Board of Education or Pitt County Board of Education. Those policies will control over anything to the contrary in this Guide.

- The Guide is a "living" document and subject to change, without prior notice, if laws or policies change or if Pitt County Schools makes modifications to programming. The most current version of the Guide will always be available at www.pittschools.org.

- Going forward in this Guide, the term **parent** is defined to include legal guardians and custodians.

In addition to these limitations, parents may not find the answer to every question in the Guide. If you are seeking information on what school rules exist, what to do in the event of a lockdown, where to report safety concerns, how to respond if your child tells you that he/she has been bullied, or other topics related to creating orderly, safe, and supportive school environments, please review the Parents' Guide to Standards of Conduct to Support Safe Schools & Annual Notices.

If you would like more information on any topic in either of our two Parent Guides, please visit www.pittschools.org for additional information.

SCHOOL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Overview

Student enrollment in any Pitt County School is completed online using a central portal. The portal may be accessed at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/263. Parents have the option of using the portal to enroll from home or at a registration kiosk provided in the main office of the school where they are seeking to enroll their child.

Once a parent registers for the portal and completes the online registration form, the school will contact the parent to finalize the student's enrollment and/or coordinate the submission of all required documents.

In addition to being **domiciled in Pitt County** or meeting out of county admission criteria, students entering kindergarten or any other grade if they are entering public schools in North Carolina for the first time must present the following to enroll in Pitt County Schools:

- **Proof of age;**
- **Proof of a student health assessment;** and
- **Proof of immunizations.**

The parent of any transfer student to Pitt County Schools (i.e. students who have been enrolled in or who have attended a private school or a public school in this state or another state) must also provide a **disciplinary status affidavit** at the time of enrollment. When entering Pitt County Schools from another district, parents should also provide **the name, telephone number, and address of previous school attended** and **the most recent report card or transcript** (if available). This information is helpful to the school in properly placing your child in the correct grade level and classes.

For a student who is in foster care or considered homeless, the inability to provide documentation will not prevent immediate enrollment of the student. School officials, or in the case of a student experiencing homelessness, the homeless liaison, shall immediately contact the last school the student attended to obtain relevant enrollment records or other information needed for enrollment. These officials shall work with the student, the parent or guardian, school personnel, and other agencies as necessary to obtain enrollment information in a timely manner.

More information on documentation to support student enrollment is provided below.

Proof of Age

Pursuant to state law and Pitt County Board of Education Policy 4100, a student who is presented for enrollment at any time during the first 120 days of a school year will be considered eligible for initial entry in any of the following circumstances.

- The student reaches or reached the age of five on or before August 31 of that school year.
- The student did not reach the age of five on or before August 31 and either (1) resided in another state and was attending school during that school year in accordance with that state's laws or rules prior to moving to North Carolina or (2) is the child of a military family and attended school in another state prior to relocating to North Carolina.
- The student's parent is (1) a legal resident of North Carolina who is an active member of the uniformed services assigned to a permanent duty station in another state; (2) the child's parent is the sole legal custodian of the child; (3) the child's parent is deployed for duty away from the permanent duty station; and (4) the child resides with an adult who is a domiciliary of a local school administrative unit in North Carolina as a result of the parent's deployment away from the permanent duty station.

- In rare and extraordinary circumstances (i.e. not just because the student is developmentally advanced), (1) the student reached the age of four on or before April 16; (2) the student is presented for enrollment no later than the end of the first month of the school year; and (3) the principal of the school finds, based on information submitted by the child's parent or guardian and in alignment with guidelines established by the State Board of Education, that the child is gifted and has the maturity to justify admission to school.

To establish a student's age, parents must furnish a certified copy of the child's **birth certificate** or **other competent and verifiable evidence of the child's date of birth**.

To obtain a copy of a birth certificate, a parent should contact the Register of Deeds in the county where their child was born if the child was born in North Carolina. You can visit www.ncard.us for more information. For children born in any other state, go to the National Center for Health Statistics website for information about obtaining a copy of a birth certificate from that particular state (www.cdc.gov/nchs/w2w/index.htm).

A birth certificate or other satisfactory proof of age issued by a foreign country or institution will be accepted and treated in the same manner as comparable documents issued in the United States. In accordance with *Plyler v. Doe*, a birth certificate is used primarily for the purpose of establishing the age of the child and secondarily for verifying the relationship of the adult to the student being enrolled. It is not used to inquire about the citizenship or immigration status of the child, parent, or guardian.

Other competent evidence of a child's age might include but is not limited to (1) a certified copy of any medical record of the child's birth issued by the treating physician or the hospital in which the child was born or (2) a certified copy of a birth certificate issued by a church, mosque, temple, or other religious institution that maintains birth records of its members.

Proof of a Student Health Assessment

All students entering kindergarten or any other grade if they are entering public schools in North Carolina for the first time must receive a **health assessment** made no more than 12 months prior to the date of school entry. Health assessments MUST be documented on the Health Assessment Report form (PPS-2K). No other form can be accepted as proof that a student has met this requirement.

The completed health assessment must be presented by the parent to the principal on or before the child's first day of attendance.

If the form is not presented, parents will be given a 30-calendar day grace period after school entry to obtain a health assessment. A student who fails to meet this requirement will not be permitted to attend school until the required health assessment form has been presented. Such absences will not be considered as a suspension, and the student will be given an opportunity to make up work missed during the absence.

Within 60 calendar days after the commencement of the school year, principals are required to file health assessment status reports with the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Immunization Branch on forms provided by the Department.

Parents may seek a religious exemption from North Carolina Health Assessment by providing a written statement setting out the bona fide religious beliefs upon which the exemption is sought.

Proof of Immunizations

Pursuant to state law, no child may attend school unless certificates of immunizations showing that the child has received the required immunizations are provided to the school. The chart below sets out the minimum immunization doses required by state law.

	Vaccination	**Doses Required**
Students entering kindergarten	DTaP, DTP, or DT	5 doses***
	Polio	4 doses
	Hib	3-4 doses****
	Pneumococcal	4 doses****
	Hep B	3 doses
	Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR)	2 doses
	Varicella	2 doses or provider note verifying history
Students entering 7th grade or who have reached age 12**	Meningococcal conjugate (MCV)	1 dose
	Tetanus/diphtheria/pertussis (Tdap)	1 dose
Students entering 12th grade or who have reached age 17**	Meningococcal conjugate (MCV)	1 booster dose

***Whichever comes first.*
****If 4th dose of DTaP, DTP, or DT is after 4th birthday, 5th dose is not required.*
*****If Hib or Pneumococcal vaccines not given previously, children over 5 are not required to have Hib or Pneumococcal vaccines.*

If a parent does not have a copy of their child's immunization records, the North Carolina Department of Health & Human Services provides guidance on how the parent can potentially obtain a copy at https://immunization.dph.ncdhhs.gov/family/locating_immnz_record.htm.

If documentation of the required immunizations is not presented on or before the first day of attendance, designated school staff will notify the parent of the deficiency. Parents will be granted 30 calendar days from the first day of attendance to obtain the required immunization(s).

If required vaccinations are not obtained within 30 calendar days, students will not be allowed to continue attending school. However, if the administration of the vaccine in a series of doses given at medically approved intervals requires a period in excess of 30 calendar days, additional days may be allowed to obtain the required immunizations upon certification by a physician.

State law requires medical or religious exemptions from state immunization requirements to be documented. Medical exemptions can only be obtained from a physician licensed to practice in North Carolina and are only accepted if presented on North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Form 3987. A parent may present a written statement of their bona fide religious beliefs upon which they oppose any required immunization. Written statements asserting a bona fide religious exemption to immunizations should also include the name and date of birth of the child for whom the exemption is sought. While Pitt County Schools will honor religious exemption requests, requests based on personal beliefs will not be granted.

Disciplinary Status Affidavit

State law requires parents of children (1) who have been enrolled in or who have attended a private school or a public school in this state or another state and (2) who wish to enroll in Pitt County Schools (i.e. transfer students) to provide a disciplinary status affidavit at the time of enrollment. A disciplinary status affidavit is a statement made under oath or affirmation before a notary indicating (1) whether at the time of the admission request the student is under suspension or expulsion from attendance at a private or public school in this or any other state and (2) whether the student has been convicted of a felony in this or any other state.

If a transfer student seeking admission to Pitt County Schools is under a suspension, has been expelled, or has been convicted of a felony, Pitt County Schools will follow Pitt County Board of Education Policy 4115. In accordance with Policy 4115, Pitt County Schools reserves the right to deny admission or place conditions on the admission of a student in these circumstances.

Notwithstanding the provisions Policy 4115, students under a suspension or an expulsion who have been identified as having a disability pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and otherwise meet the requirements for enrollment in the school system are entitled to services to the extent mandated by federal and state law.

Checklist of Documentation Needed to Enroll a Student in School

The table below provides a checklist list of the records that are necessary to support student enrollment.

To establish . . .	**Please provide . . .**
Parent/ Guardian / Custodian Status	State issued photo Identification of parent/legal guardian/ legal custodian AND Student's birth certificate OR Other records establishing legal guardian/ custodian status (e.g. a court order establishing guardianship)
Proof of Student's Age	Student's birth certificate or other competent proof of age
Two Proofs of Residence	Any 2 of the following: ● Notarized rental/purchase agreement ● Utility bills (electric, telephone, gas, etc.) - Dated within the last 30 days ● Automobile registration ● Insurance policies (e.g. property or car) ● Tax statements (e.g. income tax W-2 form or property tax bill)
Proof of Health Assessment	Health Assessment Report form (PPS-2K) completed by a healthcare provider
Proof of Immunizations	Immunization Records
Proof of Disciplinary Status	Disciplinary Status Affidavit

ACADEMIC/INSTRUCTIONAL INFORMATION

Overview

Pitt County Schools' staff are charged with providing excellent teaching and creating an environment to ensure that our students master the knowledge and skills for success in a rapidly changing world. As we work to educate students, we recognize that we do so in partnership with parents. The information provided in this Part of the Parents' Guide to Student Achievement can be broken down into two components: (1) information about academic and instructional opportunities provided by Pitt County Schools and (2) how students are evaluated and promoted in our schools. The chart below helps clarify which sections correspond to the three components.

Academic & Instructional Opportunities	How Students Are Evaluated & Promoted
Multi-Tiered System of Support	Student Progress & Performance
Standard Course of Study	Student Promotion for Grades K-8
Rigorous Academic Opportunities	Student Promotion for Grades 9-12
Extracurricular Opportunities for Middle & High School Students	Quality Points and Determination of GPA for Grades 9-12
Teacher Qualifications	Graduation Information for Grades 9-12
Open Enrollment & School Choice	Recognizing Student Excellence

We value parent input as students pursue their studies and encourage parents to communicate with school staff throughout the instructional year. More information on communication between school and home is provided on pages 32-33 of this Guide.

Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS)

Pitt County Schools will ensure that every student is provided a rigorous and personalized education that prepares students for post-secondary education and the workforce. We do this through our commitment to implementing and sustaining a Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS), so that all students succeed academically, behaviorally, and emotionally. MTSS is a framework which promotes school improvement through engaging, research-based academic and behavioral practices.

We believe that all children have the capacity to grow and learn in an environment that fosters understanding and provides effective instruction tailored to meet the needs of each learner.

School-based teams use various points of student data and a structured problem solving model to improve learning outcomes for all students. Schools provide educational support to all students at increasing levels of intensity based on their individual needs. The goal is to prevent problems and intervene early so that all students can be successful. Schools layer different types of support into three tiers:

- Tier One includes high-quality curriculum and differentiated instruction in the classroom that ***all*** children receive (i.e. Core Instruction).
- Tier Two includes additional targeted supplemental instruction for small groups of students who need more support on a targeted skill.
- Tier Three includes intensive interventions that are customized to meet the individual needs of students.

Standard Course of Study

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 located on the NCDPI Office of Academic Standards website (https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/academic-standards).

Standards are established for the following:

- 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.

Local districts, schools, and teachers determine how to teach these standards, including curriculum, supplementary materials, books, and other instructional materials.

The Pitt County Board of Education addresses curriculum and instruction in the 3000 series of its policy manual. Applicable Pitt County Board of Education Policies in the 3000 series are available for review at https://v3.boardpolicyonline.com/b/bl/pitt_co/s/-4-3. The policies address how instructional materials and curriculum are selected, parents' ability to review curriculum and instructional materials, and the process by which parents may object to instructional materials.

Beginning in 7th grade, the North Carolina Standard Course of Study for health and physical education classes includes curriculum related to prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS), avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy, and reproductive health and safety education. Pitt County Schools' policy requires that this instruction follow the state-mandated curriculum. Parents may review materials that will be used to provide this instruction in the school's Media Center. We also encourage you to talk with your child about the topics covered. If you do not want your child to participate in this instruction, you have the right to opt-out your child's participation in curricula related to: (a) prevention of sexually transmitted diseases, including Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS); (b) avoidance of out-of-wedlock pregnancy; or (c) reproductive health and safety education. You should notify your principal in writing of your decision. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your principal or your child's health and physical education teacher.

Pitt County Schools' Literacy Intervention Plan is available at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/academic-services/elementary-education.

More information related to curriculum and rigorous academic opportunities is shared in the next section of this Guide.

Rigorous Academic Opportunities

Pitt County Schools offers a variety of options for students to pursue their interests and skills at their academic level. The chart below provides a breakdown of opportunities available to students at various grade levels. Descriptions of these opportunities follow in alphabetical order.

Rigorous Academic Opportunities by Grade Level		
K-5	**6-8**	**9-12**
Academic and/ or Intellectually Gifted Arts Education AVID Battle of the Books Dual Language Immersion Grade Acceleration Math Mania Science Olympiad STEM Schools of Distinction	Academic and/ or Intellectually Gifted Arts Education AVID Battle of the Books Career & Technical Education Science Olympiad STEM Schools of Distinction Subject Acceleration	Academic and/ or Intellectually Gifted Advanced Placement Arts Education AVID Battle of the Books Career & College Promise Courses Career & Technical Education Credit Demonstrated by Mastery Early College High Schools Governor's School Health Sciences Academy Honors Level Courses NCGrads2Work NCVPS Pitt Pirate Robotics STEM Schools of Distinction Technical Academy Tradesformers Work-Based Learning

Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted (AIG): In North Carolina, school districts must identify and serve academically or intellectually gifted (AIG) students. AIG students 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. In May 2024, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction recognized Pitt County Schools as one of 13 districts in the state of North Carolina as a Promising District that delivers a full K-12 AIG program.

Generally, AIG students receive the following services from Pitt County Schools:

- Differentiated curriculum and instruction with flexible student groups;
- Accelerated opportunities (e.g., 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 licensed AIG personnel or within the regular classroom by teachers trained to meet the needs of gifted students. Pitt County Schools' AIG Plan provides further details on opportunities for AIG students. You can find the plan at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/47.

Pitt County Schools has also developed a guide for parents to understand better AIG program eligibility criteria and how students will be identified and served across grades K-12. Please access the information via https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1YHRakWLH7II_F6ML52xpI_c6eHuZU7zo23tCzF7SGtY/edit?gid=603251493#gid=603251493 to review the eligibility guide. If you have questions about the AIG program and your child is in grades K-8, please contact the AIG Coordinator at your child's school. If your child is in high school, please contact the Acceleration Advisor for high school students.

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses: The Advanced Placement (AP) is a program developed by the College Board to offer college-level curricula and examinations to high school students. In North Carolina, 40 Advanced Placement courses are offered in public high schools. The following Advanced Placement offerings are offered in the six traditional high schools:

- 2D Art and Design
- 3D Art and Design
- African American Studies
- Art History
- Biology
- Calculus AB
- Calculus BC
- Comparative Government
- Computer Science A
- Computer Science Principles
- Chemistry
- Cybersecurity
- English Language/ Composition
- English Literature and Composition
- Environmental Science
- European History
- US Government and Politics:
- Human Geography
- Macroeconomics
- Microeconomics
- Music Theory
- Physics 1
- Physics 2
- Physics C
- Precalculus
- Psychology
- Research
- Seminar
- Spanish Language and Culture
- Statistics
- US History
- World History (Modern)

If an AP course is not available at a student's school, students may be able to work with their counselor to set up a free period to take the course through the NC Virtual Public School (NCVPS). Students have the opportunity to obtain an AP Capstone Diploma or Certificate. For more information on the AP Capstone Awards, please visit https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/ap-capstone-diploma-program.

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 $40.00 fee. Colleges and universities, including all of the colleges in the UNC System, may offer college credit for these courses if your child scores a 3 or above on the exam. Please visit the websites below to learn more about AP course offerings.

- https://sites.google.com/pitt.k12.nc.us/hsregguide/home
- https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/enhanced-opportunities/advanced-learning-and-gifted-education/apibcie-coursework
- https://apstudents.collegeboard.org/courses

Arts Education: At all grade levels, Pitt County Schools offers arts education to help students develop creative expression skills and a lifelong appreciation and understanding of the arts. Arts education helps students to develop critical thinking skills to solve problems that arise in the creative process or in real time during a live performance and develop the ability to learn from setbacks to create a final refined product. It also trains students to set long-term goals, establish reasonable short-term waypoints, effectively manage time, and develop practice routines to master a skill. More information on arts education in Pitt County Schools can be accessed via https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/4743.

Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID): AVID programs help students set high expectations and work toward college and career readiness and success in a global society. In elementary schools, AVID programming is incorporated into the regular instructional day. In middle and high school, AVID is offered as

a separate elective for students. Through AVID students work to master writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization skills, reading, note-taking, study skills, and college/career/motivational activities. Students must commit to taking notes in subject-area classes on a daily basis and to reviewing those notes every night for homework. Other elements of the program include satisfactory citizenship, good attendance, and a respectable academic average. Currently 26 schools within Pitt County Schools offer AVID to students. A full list of schools is available at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/7219. For more information on AVID, please contact the District's AVID Coordinator.

Jessica Avery
1717 W Fifth Street
Greenville, NC 27834
252-375-6035
averyj@pitt.k12.nc.us

Battle of the Books: The North Carolina School Library Media Association (NCSLMA) sponsors Battle of the Books Competitions for students in elementary, middle, and high schools. Students at participating schools read books from lists established by NCSLMA committees and then compete in quiz-bowl-style tournaments to test their knowledge of these books. The goals of the program are to encourage reading by all students at all grade levels, to create excitement and interest in reading, to help students mature in their reading skills, and to acquire a broader knowledge base. Information on how to participate in Battle of the Books will be shared by participating schools early in the academic year.

Career and College Promise (CCP): Pitt County Schools partners with Pitt Community College to offer dual enrollment opportunities through the Career and College Promise program. Qualifying high school students may earn high school credit by completing community college coursework. 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 the school counselor and/or the career and development coordinator at your child's school. Additional information is available on the NCDPI CCP website. https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/enhanced-opportunities/advanced-learning-and-gifted-education/career-and-college-promise

Career and Technical Education (CTE): The State of North Carolina and the Pitt County Board of Education have made significant investments in developing students and programs to meet the needs of the future workforce. Through Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, Pitt County Schools offers opportunities for students to develop career awareness in 5th grade. Students in middle and high schools have numerous opportunities to experience leadership, career development, and career-aligned content. The chart below provides an overview of CTE opportunities for students in middle and high school in Pitt County Schools.

	6-8	**9-12**
Career & Technical Education elective courses offered		
Career & Technical Student Organizations offered		
Assess and explore their career interests through SchooLinks		
Participate in Grow Local	8-12	
Obtain CTE Credentials		
Take the ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Assessment		
Participate in Workforce Training & Internships		

The high school **CTE course catalog** is available at https://sites.google.com/pitt.k12.nc.us/ctecourses/, while CTE Elective Courses for middle school students can be accessed at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/1774. At some schools and in some courses, students will have an opportunity to participate in hands-on problem solving through Paxton-Patterson College and Career Readiness Labs. In all schools, elective CTE courses are enhanced through the work of Career Development Coordinators who help provide CTE course enhancements for students at regular intervals. Examples of enhancements offered by Career Development Coordinators include bringing in guest speakers, arranging industry tours and career fairs, offering resume building workshops, and supporting students with mock interviews and tips for business dress and etiquette.

Career & Technical Student Organizations (CTSOs) are organizations that provide leadership skills, hands on career exploration, and professional development opportunities for students. CTSOs in Pitt County Schools include DECA, FBLA, FCCLA, FFA, HOSA, Skills USA, and TSA. Students can learn more about available opportunities in their respective schools through their school's career development coordinator or counselors.

SchooLinks is an online platform available to all middle and high school students that provides career interest assessments based on each student's personality and interests. SchooLinks also provides students an opportunity to explore career pathways and opportunities related to their interests.

In March, middle and high school students have the opportunity to participate in **Grow Local**, an initiative offered by the Greenville-Pitt County Chamber of Commerce in partnership with Pitt County Schools. Through Grow Local, local businesses open their doors to students and providing a unique opportunity to identify career paths and opportunities, including opportunities students may not have encountered previously. From tours of local businesses, conversations with business leaders, and hands-on activities, students will have first-hand experience at a day in the life of an employee in a field relevant to curriculum they are studying in their class.

All high school students have the opportunity to participate in assessments related to the **ACT WorkKeys National Career Readiness Certificate (NCRC)**. NCRC is a portable, evidence-based credential earned by completing and ranking scores in Applied Math, Graphic Literacy and Workplace Documents Assessments. NCRC is awarded at Platinum, Gold, Silver, and Bronze levels and is required by some employers to better understand whether an applicant has met or exceeded the necessary skills for over 16,000 occupations. High school students will receive support to prepare for these assessments.

Students in high school also have the opportunity to earn **CTE credentials** through assessments developed by third-party providers. CTE credentials are recognized by institutions of higher education and industry, and provide students with the documented evidence they possess skills needed to compete in today's workforce. Information on CTE credentials is available at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/1486.

Students in high school also have the opportunity to participate in a variety of hands-on **workforce training and internships**. Opportunities for workforce training include the Health Sciences Academy, Pharma K-12, Tradesformers, and Work-Based Learning. Details on the Health Sciences Academy, Pharma K-12, Tradesformers, and Work-Based Learning are provided in separate sections within this part of the Guide.

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM): Pitt County Schools offers opportunities for students to earn credit for a high school course without enrolling in the course. All high school courses, with a few exceptions set by the state, are available for CDM acceleration. There are two phases of assessments that a student must go through to earn credit for the course through CDM: a testing phase and an artifact process. Key dates and detailed information about CDM are available at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/1753.

Dual Language Immersion: Dual language immersion programs are a form of bilingual education in which students are taught literacy and content in two languages with the goal of becoming bilingual in both by the time that they graduate from high school. Pitt County Schools is pleased to offer dual language immersion programs at Belvoir Elementary, Elmhurst Elementary, Pactolus Global School, and Wellcome Middle School. To participate in these programs, students must enroll in the dual language immersion program in kindergarten and will receive instruction in all content areas in English and Spanish through fifth grade. After completing elementary school, students will continue to take courses in Spanish through their senior year of high school. Information on dual language immersion programs is available at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/6959. For additional questions, please contact Hannah Butler, Director of Global Education.

Early College High Schools: Pitt County Schools partners with Pitt Community College to offer the Pitt County Early College High School and with East Carolina University to offer Innovation Early College High

School. Both early college high schools are choice schools for students and families, and provide an opportunity for selected students to earn both a high school diploma and an associate's degree and/or CTE credentials. Students can stay for an additional fifth year to complete their credentials before graduating. More information about the Pitt County and Innovation Early College High Schools is available at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/site/default.aspx?PageType=3&DomainID=25&ModuleInstanceID=17525&ViewID=6446EE88-D30C-497E-9316-3F8874B3E108&RenderLoc=0&FlexDataID=45065&PageID=6917 and from NCDPI at https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/enhanced-opportunities/advanced-learning-and-gifted-education/cooperative-innovative-high-schools.

Governor's School: Each summer, the North Carolina 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. For more information on eligibility and the Governor's School application process, please contact your school counselor or visit www.ncgovschool.org.

Grade Acceleration: As part of the AIG Plan, Pitt County Schools has set procedures for parents of students in grades K-2, who demonstrate the ability to perform two grade levels above their current grade level, to seek grade acceleration for their child. Parents seeking grade acceleration for their child should review the procedures within the AIG plan governing grade acceleration and consult the AIG teacher for their child's school. The procedures governing grade acceleration can be accessed within the AIG plan, which is available at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/47.

Health Sciences Academy: The Health Sciences Academy is a high school curriculum program offered in partnership with East Carolina University and Pitt Community College that is designed to expose and prepare students who wish to pursue healthcare-related careers upon graduation. The program is open to any student enrolled in one of the six traditional high schools or the early college high schools within Pitt County Schools. Upon graduation, many Health Sciences Academy students will continue their education and pursue a degree in a healthcare-related field. More information on the Health Sciences Academy is available by accessing https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/domain/30.

Honors Level Courses: In Pitt County Schools, high schools 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. These courses are available in the course catalog via https://sites.google.com/pitt.k12.nc.us/hsregguide/home.

Math Mania: Math Mania is a district-wide math competition for students in grades 3-5. Math Mania Teams are formed in each elementary school in Pitt County to celebrate and encourage students with advanced math capabilities. Within an elementary school, a grade level qualifying test will be administered to the top 25% of math students within the grade level. Based on a review of qualifying tests, the six strongest students from each grade level will be chosen to represent the school's Math Mania Teams. Beginning in January, the eighteen qualifying students will practice at school as a team, typically during their lunch period with AIG teachers, and also are encouraged to practice at home to learn as many math strategies as possible to prepare for the district-wide competition event.

NCGrads2Work: Pitt County Schools is pleased to partner with Thermo Fisher Scientific, Catalent, Fresenius Kabi, and the NC Biotechnology Center to offer a specialized training program called NCGrads2 Work (formerly the Pharma K12 Workforce Training Development Initiative). This program is available over the summer to qualified candidates who are recent graduates from Pitt County Schools. Once students complete the program, they are eligible to be hired at Thermo Fisher Scientific, Catalent, or Fresenius Kabi.

North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS): The North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) is North Carolina'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. School counselors are able to advise

interested students on NCVPS course options and assist with enrollment in an NCVPS course. The full catalog of NCVPS courses can be accessed at https://ncvps.org.

Pitt Pirate Robotics: Through the Pitt County Educational Foundation, Pitt County Schools is proud to financially support and partner with Pitt Pirate Robotics, an organization that provides high school students in eastern North Carolina with the opportunity to participate in FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) robotics programs. In addition to working with a team to build a robot to meet a specific design challenge and entering the robot into competition, students who participate in the program give back to the community by spreading a love of STEM to younger students and learn fundraising skills. For more information on Pitt Pirate Robotics, please visit https://www.pittpiratesrobotics.com/ or contact Ann McClung, mcclung.ann@gmail.com.

Science Olympiad: Pitt County Schools is proud to offer Science Olympiad teams in most of its schools. Science Olympiad teams participate in competitions with a variety of hands-on, interactive, challenging and inquiry-based events that are well-balanced between the disciplines of biology, earth science, environmental science, chemistry, physics, engineering and technology. The challenging and self-motivating events align with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study as well as the National Science Education Standards. The events are designed to enhance and strengthen both science content and process skills, and encourage students to pursue degrees in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) degrees and careers. For more information on Science Olympiad opportunities in your child's school, please contact your school's counselor.

STEM Schools of Distinction: Several schools in our district have been recognized as STEM Schools of Distinction by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction. Currently, Eastern Elementary School, Lakeforest Elementary School, C.M. Eppes Middle School, Wellcome Middle School, and Innovation Early College High School have earned that designation.

STEM Schools of Distinction align their efforts with NCDPI's progress rubric, which includes five overarching principles and over 20 key indicators. Pitt County Schools view STEM not just as science, technology, engineering and mathematics, but as strategies and best practices that can be applied to any subject, in any grade level and at any time, both in school and in extracurricular activities. In our NC STEM Schools of Distinction, students develop 21st-century skills such as collaboration, communication, creativity and critical thinking. Learning is connected to the real world through career and industry connections, partnerships with higher education and global connections.

Subject Acceleration: As part of the AIG Plan, Pitt County Schools has set procedures for parents of middle school students to seek subject or grade acceleration. Parents interested in seeking acceleration for a middle school student for a subsequent school year must request acceleration from the AIG teacher for their child's school no later than December 1 of the current school year. Before staff decide to accelerate a student, they will undertake significant observations of the student, ensure that the student meets specific, minimum academic criteria and have conversations with the student and their family. For more information on acceleration for middle school students, please visit https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/47 or contact the AIG teacher at your child's school.

Technical Academy: In partnership with Pitt Community College, Pitt County Schools offers the Technical Academy, a two-year or four-semester program offered to high school juniors and seniors. Through the Technical Academy, students have the opportunity to learn skills in four high-demand trades: (1) air conditioning, heating, and refrigeration, (2) architectural technology, (3) biotechnology, (4) electrical systems, (5) engineering technology, and (6) industrial systems. Students apply for the program in the spring semester of 10th grade. For more information on the Technical Academy, please contact the school counselor or career development coordinator.

Tradesformers: Pitt County Schools is proud to offer the Tradesformers program in partnership with local businesses. Tradesformers is a youth apprenticeship program for high school juniors and seniors designed to connect talented students with growing industry trades in Eastern North Carolina. Students selected for the program gain on-the-job training and related classroom instruction through pre-apprenticeships, while earning a base pay rate and learning valuable skills to advance in their field. In addition, they have the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials and certifications and/or college degrees. Tradesformers partners include Advance Mechanical, C.L. Waters Plumbing, Curtis Construction, Jack A. Farrior, Greenville Utilities Commission, Manning Masonry, North State Steel, Pitt County Schools Facilities Services, Piedmont Service Group, Pitt Electric, Revitalife, ECU Health, and Thomas Electrical Solutions.

Work-Based Learning: In addition to Tradesformers and the Health Sciences Academy, Pitt County Schools provides CTE Internships and Apprenticeships to students in a variety of fields related to their CTE Courses. For example, a student in agricultural education might serve as an intern at a veterinarian's office, AgCarolina, or in any other related area.

Extracurricular Opportunities for Middle and High School Students

In addition to the rigorous academic opportunities described in the previous section, Pitt County Schools recognizes that extracurricular activities, including student organizations and sports teams, are often a motivation for middle and high school students to perform well academically in school. Participation in these opportunities also helps students cultivate leadership skills, learn to work with a team, manage time, strengthen networking with common interests, and develop greater confidence through accomplishments.

Eligibility to Participate in Any Extracurricular Opportunity: Participation in extracurricular activities is a privilege, not a right, and may be reserved for students in good academic and behavioral standing. Participation in extracurricular activities may be restricted if a student (1) is not performing at grade level, (2) has failed to meet applicable attendance requirements, (3) has violated student conduct standards, or (4) has violated school rules of conduct.

While participating in or attending as representatives of the school any school-related activity held on the school grounds or at some other location, students are subject to the same rules and regulations concerning conduct, which apply during the regular school day.

More information about the rules governing extracurricular activities is available in Pitt County Board of Education Policy 3620. Parents can also contact the school counselor or athletic director to learn more about the extracurricular activities available in their child's school.

Athletic Eligibility: There are additional specific standards governing athletic eligibility for middle and high school students. To help parents and students understand the general rules that might impact their eligibility to participate in extracurricular athletics, a short summary of key rules follows below.

This summary of key athletic regulations is provided so that students can be made aware of rules which might affect their eligibility. The rules above are general statements only. See your principal, athletic director, or coach if you have any questions or need further explanation of details and exceptions.

Middle School Athletic Eligibility: Students participating in athletics will be governed by local, county and state athletic regulations.

- Students in 6th grade are eligible to participate in any sport except for football.
- A student must provide their principal with evidence of their **legal birth date**. A student shall not participate on a 7th or 8th grade team if he/she becomes 15 years of age on or before August 31 of said school year. A middle school student who is over age for middle school competition shall be eligible for high school participation.

- A student must have been in **attendance** for at least 85% of the previous semester at an approved school.
- The student must **pass at least 70% of the courses taken in the previous semester**. The student must also **meet local promotion standards**.
- The student must be **domiciled in Pitt County** or **meet out of county admission criteria**. Out-of-district domicile fraud will result in the student being deemed ineligible for athletics for 365 days.
- The student must receive a **medical examination each year** by a duly licensed physician, nurse practitioner or physician's assistant. Medical examinations are valid for 395 days towards athletic eligibility.
- Students assigned to in-school suspension or an out-of-school suspension of any length may not participate until the required suspension term is completed. If a student sits on the bench and is dressed out, he/she will be considered to be participating in that game.

High School Athletic Eligibility: Students participating in athletics in high school will be governed by local, county and state athletic regulations and rules set by the State Board of Education and the North Carolina High School Athletic Association (NCHSAA).

- Students must be a **properly enrolled student** at the time they participate in a sport. To be properly enrolled, a student must be enrolled no later than the 15th day of the present semester and meet local attendance policy. Students may not have graduated.
- Students must be **under 19 years of age** on August 31 of the current school year;
- With certain exceptions that must be approved by the principal and NCHSAA and are set out in NCHSAA Rule 1.2.2 (f), students must live with his/her parents or legal custodian within the school administrative unit.
- Students must **pass at least 70% of the courses he/she was enrolled in during the previous semester** and must **be on track to advance to the next grade level or graduate within the next calendar year**.
- Students must have been in **attendance** for at least 85% of the previous semester at an approved school.
- Students in 9th through 11th grades must be enrolled in **a minimum of three classes per semester to be considered for eligibility for the following semester**. A student in 12th grade that is on track to graduate **may take a minimum of two classes for the fall semester and one for the spring semester of that year**. If at any point the student drops a class, he or she will be immediately deemed ineligible for competition.
- Students are immediately ineligible to participate in NCHSAA sports if they are either (1) convicted of a crime classified as a felony under North Carolina or Federal law or (2) is adjudicated delinquent for an offense that would be a felony if committed by an adult. For purposes of this rule, conviction or adjudication of delinquency includes the entry of (a) a plea of guilty; or (b) a plea of no contest, nolo contendere, or the equivalent; or (c) a verdict or finding of guilty by a jury, judge, magistrate or the other duly constituted, established, and recognized adjudicating body, tribunal or official, either civil or military.
- Students must have received a medical examination each year by a duly licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician's assistant. If a student misses five or more days of practice due to illness or injury, he/she must undergo another medical examination before practicing or playing. Medical examinations are valid for 395 days towards athletic eligibility.
- Students may profit from their name, image, and likeness (“NIL”) subject to specific rules set by the State Board of Education and enforced by the NCHSAA. Beyond the specific exceptions for NIL,

students must not accept prizes, merchandise, money, or anything that can be exchanged for money as a result of athletic participation. This includes being on a free list or loan list for equipment, etc.

- Students must not have signed a professional contract or have played on a junior college team.
- Students must not participate in unsanctioned all-star or bowl games.
- Students may not receive team instructions from your school's coaching staff during the school year outside your sport's season (from first practice through final game). Instruction is limited to coaches and athletes in skill development sessions. These sessions may not be held during certain prescribed "dead periods" during the year.
- Students must not be guilty of unsportsmanlike conduct or ejected from the previous contest.
- With some rare exceptions, students may not practice or play during the school day individually or with a team (from first contest through conference tournament).
- Students may not play, practice or assemble as a team with his/her coach on Sunday.
- Students may not dress for a contest or sit on the bench or practice if he/she is not eligible to participate.
- With the exceptions of softball and volleyball, students must not play more than three games in one sport per week. With the exceptions of baseball, softball, and volleyball, students must not play in more than one contest per day in the same sport.
- Students may attend only those summer camps for which their parents have paid the fees.

In addition to these rules, the Pitt County Board of Education permits students to play sports when they initially enroll in a high school, either as their assigned school or a school of choice through open enrollment or reassignment. If a student transfers schools after initially enrolling and the transfer is for any reason other than a bona fide change of residence, the **student will not be eligible for athletic participation for 365 days**. To learn more about the 365-day sit out rule, please consult Part E of Pitt County Board of Education Policy 4150.

Teacher Qualifications

Parents may look up their children's teachers' licensure statuses through the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Online Licensure System. The NCDPI online licensure system may be accessed at https://vo.licensure.ncpublicschools.gov/datamart/loginNCDPI.do.

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 North Carolina teaching license. Additional questions regarding teacher licensure status may be directed to Pitt County Schools' Human Resources Department.

Open Enrollment & School Choice

Students in Pitt County Schools are assigned to attend a school based on where they reside permanently with their parents (i.e. their **domicile**). More information on school assignment can be reviewed at Pitt County Board of Education Policy 4150. How a student's domicile is determined is specified in Pitt County Board of Education Policy 4120.

Beyond the options described above, including the alternative school and early college high schools, **Pitt County Schools offers choice** to parents in where their children attend school through our robust **Reassignment and Lottery Programs**. In rare circumstances specified in Policy 4150, parents may also elect to have their children attend a school other than their assigned school through a **request for a transfer**.

To learn more about these opportunities for choice, please visit https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/student-assignment/pcs-school-choice and review Pitt County Board of Education Policy 4150.

Beyond Pitt County Schools, parents may also choose other options including charter and nonpublic schools. Descriptions of these options and information about scholarship grant programs/ vouchers are provided on the next page.

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 North Carolina charter schools, visit https://www.dpi.nc.gov/students-families/alternative-choices/charter-schools for information, resources, and contacts.

Nonpublic Education and Scholarship Grants: Nonpublic education is overseen by the North Carolina Department of Administration. Visit https://www.doa.nc.gov/divisions/non-public-education/private-school-directory-statistics for a list of private schools. For information on how to start a homeschool, visit https://www.doa.nc.gov/divisions/non-public-education/home-schools. Scholarship grant programs/voucher information is available at https://www.ncseaa.edu/k12/.

Student Progress & Performance

Overview: Through Pitt County Board of Education Policies 3400, 3405, 3410, 3440, 3450 and 3460, Pitt County Schools has established a system for evaluating student academic performance to help ensure that all students are succeeding within the framework of the educational goals and objectives of the board.

In addition to regular classroom feedback regarding assignments and homework, more formal evaluations of student progress are provided on a regular basis. The goal of providing regular student evaluations is to help school staff, parents, and students understand academic progress and provide any necessary intervention strategies to support students.

Formal evaluations of student progress are shared with parents at regular intervals throughout the academic year in a variety of ways, including quarterly report cards, progress reports, and testing results. Feedback on conduct is also included.

Digital Real Time Progress Monitoring: Through the Infinite Campus Portal, parents can stay connected and receive real-time information on their children's attendance, grades, and class assignments. To register for the Home Base Parent Portal, parents should contact their school's data manager. Only one log-in is needed for parents with multiple students to view progress for each child.

Report Cards: Report cards serve as a progress report to both parents and students in grades K-12. Parents are asked to read report cards carefully, note teachers' comments, make any additional comments, sign, and return the report card. If there are any concerns, parents are urged to request a conference with the teacher to discuss the student's performance. The marking period schedule and report card issuance dates for the 2026-2027 academic year are provided below.

Grades 6-8 (Nine Week) Marking Periods		
WEEK	**END DATE**	**REPORT CARD ISSUED**
1st 9 Weeks	October 23, 2026	November 4, 2025
2nd 9 Weeks	January 15, 2027	January 27, 2027
3rd 9 Weeks	April 2, 2027	April 14, 2027
4th 9 Weeks	June 8, 2027	Mailed Home

Grades 9-12 (Six Week) Marking Periods

WEEK	END DATE	REPORT CARD ISSUED
1st 6 Weeks	October 2, 2026	October 14, 2026
2nd 6 Weeks	November 17, 2026	December 2, 2026
3rd 6 Weeks	January 15, 2027	January 27, 2027
4th 6 Weeks	March 4, 2027	March 17, 2027
5th 6 Weeks	April 23, 2027	May 5, 2027
6th 6 Weeks	June 8, 2027	Mailed Home

Local Assessments: Common formative assessments (CFAs) include tests, quizzes, and other assessments that are collaboratively redesigned by a grade or course level team of teachers to assess students' understanding of the particular standards currently in focus within a series of related lessons or unit of study. Data from CFAs helps teachers monitor collective and individual student progress to ensure that all students are meeting state standards. Based on CFA data, teachers may adjust or refocus teaching for their entire classroom or provide individualized supports for students. In Pitt County Schools, students receive some form of CFA at regular intervals.

Benchmarks or **NC Check-Ins** are administered at regular intervals for students at the beginning, middle and end of an academic year. The purpose of DCAs and NC Check-Ins is to measure student progress toward meeting the standard course of study.

State Assessments: State assessments are provided for students in grades K-12 and are required by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

Students in grades K-3 receive a **K-3 Literacy Assessment** through mCLASS DIBELS ® 8th Edition. mCLASS provides an integrated literacy system based on the Science of Reading. It is a valid and reliable assessment, supporting universal literacy screening, screening for risk of dyslexia, and progress monitoring. An Individual Reading Plan (IRP) will be developed for any student who demonstrates difficulty with reading on this assessment. In addition to classroom strategies, IRPs include strategies and ideas that can be implemented at home by parents to support students. Parents and caregivers may view aligned literacy resources on Canvas.

Students in grades 3-8 take **End-of-Grade Assessments (EOGs)** for reading and math. Science EOGs are also given to students in grades 5 and 8.

Students in high school take **End-of-Course Assessments (EOCs)** in English II, Biology, NC Math 1, and NC Math 3. Students in tenth grade take the **Pre-ACT**. Students in eleventh grade take the **ACT**. Pitt County Schools requires students who have completed two or more CTE courses in a pathway to take the **ACT WorkKey National Career Readiness Certificate Assessment**.

Individual Student Reports for EOGs, EOCs, and other state assessments are accessible in the Infinite Campus Portal. The ACT shares the results of Pre-ACT, ACT, and ACT WorkKey Assessments directly with students.

Student Promotion in Grades K-8

Pitt County Board of Education Policy 3420 sets standards for student promotion following a year of academic performance for K-8 students. To be promoted to the next level in grades K-8, students must **be in attendance for at least 160 school days** AND **meet the following academic criteria**:

Grades K-2	Demonstrate grade level proficiency in reading and mathematics
Grade 3	Demonstrate grade level proficiency in reading and mathematics by scoring Level III or higher on EOG tests.
	Demonstrate reading mastery through a portfolio of student work with a grade of 70 or above
	Pass the following courses with a grade of at least 60:

- English/ Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

Grades 4-8

Demonstrate grade level proficiency in reading and mathematics by scoring Level III or higher on EOG tests.

Pass the following courses with a grade of at least 60:

- English/ Language Arts
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies

Student Promotion in Grades 9-12

Pitt County Board of Education Policy 3420 sets standards for student promotion following a semester or year of a course for students in grades 9-12.

Generally, to receive credit for a high school course, students must **have a final passing average**. To be promoted to the next grade level in high school, students must also earn at least

- 6 units of credit to be promoted to 10th grade;
- 13 units of credit, including English I, to be promoted to 11th grade; and
- 20 units of credit, including English II, to be promoted to 12th grade.

Quality Points and Determination of GPA for Grades 9-12

Students in high school have the opportunity to enroll in several different academic pathways. Enrolling in the proper pathway should make it possible for students to work at their individual level of ability. Parents and students in conjunction with school staff will consider a student's prior academic performance (e.g. grades, standardized achievement test scores, etc.) when selecting the level of course difficulty. More information on course registration can be found at https://sites.google.com/pitt.k12.nc.us/hsregguide/home.

The approved quality points used to determine GPA for students in grades 9-12 in Pitt County Schools are listed below.

Standard Level Courses

Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Quality Points
A	100-90	4
B	89-80	3
C	79-70	2
D	69-60	1
F	59 and below	0

Honors Level Courses

Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Quality Points
A	100-90	4.5
B	89-80	3.5
C	79-70	2.5
D	69-60	1.5
F	59 and below	0

Advanced Placement and 3+ Credit Hour College Courses*

Letter Grade	Numeric Grade	Quality Points
A	100-90	5
B	89-80	4
C	79-70	3
D	69-60	2
F	59 and below	0

Per state guidelines, some CTE courses are not eligible for the additional quality point. Students should speak to a school counselor about course weighting and credit.

The state weighting system adds the equivalent of one (1) quality point to the grade earned in community college courses included on the most recent Comprehensive Articulation Agreement Transfer List, and for courses taught at four-year universities and colleges. Please be advised not all courses taught at the community college level earn 5 quality points.

Students taking Advanced Placement courses in Pitt County Schools will be required to take the Advanced Placement exam. Participating universities may grant university credit and appropriate college-level placement to students who satisfy university requirements relative to AP exam scores.

Registration determines which courses are available in each high school on an annual basis. Registration in an Honors or Advanced Placement course is an academic commitment. It is very difficult to drop an Honors or Advanced Placement class and transfer to a standard section of the same course. Because Honors and Advanced Placement require additional work, the decision to enroll in them should be made with care. Standard sections of courses are geared to meet college requirements.

Graduation Information for Students in Grades 9-12

The Pitt County Board of Education intends for all students to enter high school prepared to graduate with the 28 credit diploma completed in four years or less. However, a 22 Credit Diploma Pathway is available. Information on the recommended courses to obtain a 28 credit diploma and the processes for students seeking Midyear Graduation Waiver with 28 Credits and the 22 Credit Diploma Pathway follows below.

Recommended 28 Credit Diploma: It is strongly recommended that students complete high school in four years with a minimum of 28 credits. While it is possible for students to graduate earlier with a 22-credit diploma, remaining in school enables students to pursue more robust educational opportunities including, but not limited to, Tradesformers, CTE Credentials, work-based internships and extracurricular opportunities. The information below provides an overview of the credits students need to obtain a 28 credit diploma.

Pitt County Schools 28 Future Ready Core-Graduation Credit Checklist

Content Area	**Course of Study Requirements**			
English	O English I	O English II	O English III	O English IV
Math	O Math I	O Math II	O Math III	O 4th Math Course
Science	O Earth/ Environmental	O Biology	O Physical Science or O Chemistry or O Physics	
Social Studies	O World History	O Founding Principles: Civic Literacy	O American History	O Economics & Personal Finance
Health & PE	O Health & PE (course cannot be used for concentration)			
Arts Education	Course: _____ (course can be used for concentration but additional elective credit will be needed to fulfill graduation requirements)			
Computer Science *Entered 9th grade in 2024-2025 & after*	Course: _____ (course can be used for concentration but additional elective credit will be needed to fulfill graduation requirements)			

AND

Major Concentration (4 credits in one of the areas listed to the right) CTE must follow the concentration chart. 2 CA credits combined with 2 credits within any other major concentration; CTE must be within the same cluster.	O Adv. PE 1st Credit	O Adv. PE 2nd Credit	O Sports Med 1	O Anatomy & Physio OR Sports Med II
	O AP or CCP 1st Credit	O AP or CCP 2nd Credit	O AP or CCP 3rd Credit	O AP or CCP 4th Credit
	O Arts 1st Credit	O Arts 2nd Credit	O Arts 3rd Credit	O Arts 4th Credit
	O AVID 1	O AVID 2	O AVID 3	O AVID 4
	O CTE 1st Credit	O CTE 2nd Credit	O CTE 3rd Credit	O CTE 4th Credit
	O ESL	O ESL	O ESL	O ESL
	O JROTC I	O JROTC II	O JROTC III	O JROTC IV
	O World Language 1st Credit	O World Language 2nd Credit	O World Language 3rd Credit	O World Language 4th Credit
	O Additional Credit in English, Math, Science, or Social Studies	O Additional Credit in English, Math, Science, or Social Studies	O Additional Credit in English, Math, Science, or Social Studies	O Additional Credit in English, Math, Science, or Social Studies
	1st Credit:	2nd Credit:	3rd Credit:	4th Credit:

AND

Mini Concentration (2 elective credits in one of these areas)	Arts	1st Credit:	2nd Credit:
	CTE	1st Credit:	2nd Credit:
	World Language	1st Credit:	2nd Credit:
	Combination	1st Credit:	2nd Credit:

AND

Electives Additional elective credits in any area	1st Credit:	2nd Credit:	3rd Credit:
	4th Credit:	5th Credit: (For students entering 9th grade before 2024-2025)	

Midyear Graduation Waiver with 28 Credits: Students requesting graduation prior to the end of a school year, must (1) meet the course and testing graduation requirements that were effective the year he/she entered ninth grade for the first time and (2) have support for early graduation from parents/ guardians. The process for pursuing the 22 Credit Diploma Pathway is as follows:

- The parents/guardians of a student should request early graduation for the student by filing a written request with the school principal by the last day of June prior to the beginning of the fourth year of enrollment.
- The principal, with a committee of school staff, will consider the request and approve or deny early graduation on an individual case-by-case basis, subject to the criteria stated above.
- Assignment to homerooms and registration at various grade levels depend on the number of courses passed. In some cases, the inability to schedule required courses during the first semester may prevent early graduation.
- Students who graduate early will be allowed to participate in senior activities (prom, senior breakfast, awards ceremony, graduation practice, etc.) during second semester, unless individual circumstances warrant a denial by the school principal. The student shall be responsible for securing information relative to senior activities and for related costs. The school will not send individual mailings.
- In cases where the student completes all requirements for graduation at some time other than the end of second semester, the principal shall issue the student a signed statement indicating that all graduation requirements have been met and that an official diploma will be presented at the next regularly scheduled graduation exercise.

Process for 22 Credit Diploma Pathway: While the board intends for all students to enter high school prepared to graduate with a 28 credit diploma completed in four years or less, a 22 Credit Diploma Pathway is available. To pursue this pathway, the high school student must be at least 16 and have completed three years of high school. Students and parents considering the 22 Credit Diploma Pathway must receive documented advisement regarding options for graduation and the benefits of those options based on the individual student's needs, goals, and plans. The process for pursuing the 22 Credit Diploma Pathway is as follows:

- The student must complete and sign a request form, provided by the board, along with the student's parent or legal guardian, unless the student is at least 18 years old or has been emancipated.
- A school administrator will then meet with the student and their parent/guardian to discuss plans after high school and discontinued access to high school services and supports after graduation.
- Pitt County Schools' staff will then verify that the student has met the minimum graduation requirements set by the State Board and submit the request to the superintendent for final approval.
- The superintendent or designee will approve the request upon verification of the student's eligibility, no later than 45 school days after receiving the request.
- If the student submits the request before the first day of school, the student will be required to complete the current semester, unless the local superintendent approves an early graduation. If the request is approved during the semester after classes have started, the student may graduate immediately or graduate at the end of the semester.

Recognizing Student Excellence

Students who meet standards of achievement set by the Pitt County Board of Education or individual schools will be recognized for their achievements in the areas of in academics, athletics, and cultural arts. Additionally, pursuant to Pitt County Board of Education 3440, each school will have an **honor roll** and **principal's list** to recognize students in grades 3-12 who meet the criteria described below.

Grade Level	Honor Roll	Principal's List
3-5	A grade of A in all academic subjects and a mark of S on all non-academic subjects	A grade of B or higher in all academic subjects and a mark of S on all non-academic subjects
6-8	A grade of A in all subjects	A grade of B or higher in all subjects
9-12	For the grading period ● Have a GPA of 4.0 or higher, ● A grade no lower than an A in any standard or honors course, and ● A grade no lower than a B in any AP course	For the grading period ● Have a GPA of 3.0 or higher, ● A grade no lower than a Bin any standard or honors course, and ● A grade no lower than a C in any AP course

The school system has affiliated with **national honor societies** and follows the rules and regulations set forth by those organizations to admit students to these societies. School administrators shall encourage the establishment and maintenance in the schools of such organizations that recognize outstanding academic achievement. The principal shall appoint and approve sponsors for such organizations.

Students in high school have the opportunity to earn **High School Diploma Endorsement Seals** to that identify a particular area of focused study. Criteria for earning endorsement seals are set by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and can be accessed at https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/high-school-graduation-requirements/high-school-diploma-endorsements#OverviewofDiplomaEndorsements-1009.

Pitt County Schools also utilizes the **Latin system to acknowledge the outstanding academic performance** of students at graduation. For more information on graduation recognition, please review Pitt County Board of Education Policy 3440 and consult school counselors.

PARENTAL ACTIONS TO SUPPORT STUDENTS' EDUCATION

Pitt County Schools provides a professional, full-time staff to support students in our schools and also recognizes the pivotal role that parents play in supporting their children's education. We value our partnership with parents to help students realize their full potential and offer this portion of the Guide to provide information to parents that furthers our partnership. Actions that support a student in Pitt County Schools include:

- Engagement in your children's education;
- Regular and productive communication with staff in your child's school;
- Participating in efforts to support our schools; and
- The payment of student fees.

This part of the Guide also provides information on services that can support parents and students, such as after school, college and career planning, mentoring, tutoring, student counseling, and parent support.

PARENTAL ACTIONS TO STRENGTHEN A STUDENT'S ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

Parents who regularly engage with their children about school and what they are learning strengthen their children's overall academic performance. The following actions can help support and improve a student's academic performance:

- Ensure that your child attends school regularly.
- Ask questions daily about your child's school day.
- Inquire about topics and assignments your child is learning.
- Connect with teachers to understand your child's progress.
- Ask your child's teacher(s) how you can help your child learn.
- Attend different events at your child's school to stay connected and learn how to support them.
- Read with your child or ask about what your child is reading in school.

Student Attendance

Missing 18 days or more of school per year or two or more days per month negatively impacts a student's academic performance. By contrast, regular school attendance is one of the most powerful predictors of positive outcomes for students. The infographic below summarizes some of the benefits of regular student attendance and how it ultimately contributes to students' long-term success.

Each day of instruction builds on the previous one. Regular attendance helps students develop a strong foundation in each subject area. From this foundation, students are more likely to learn and master new concepts and skills, which in turn become part of the foundation.

Setting a daily attendance habit helps students recognize the importance of other good habits, including punctuality, responsibility, prioritization, and time management. These habits will help students in the workforce or institutions of higher education where consistent presence, punctuality, reliability, and commitment are crucial.

Regular attendance allows students to form and maintain friendships with their peers. It also helps students develop a sense of belonging and a desire to work toward common goals with classmates and school staff.

Regular attendance allows students to ask questions of their teachers to deepen their understanding of content and to consistently access support services, such as counseling and tutoring. Both are vital to student well-being and academic progress.

Studies of chronic absenteeism have shown that elementary students who are chronically absent are less likely to be able to read proficiently and are more likely to be retained. Middle and high school students who are chronically absent are significantly more likely to drop out of high school. While advancements in technology have helped students see what work they are missing when at home, there is still a gap between what students can glean from online materials and what they would absorb in the classroom.

Compulsory Student Attendance

Recognizing the importance of regular school attendance, Pitt County Schools deeply appreciates the support of parents in ensuring that their children regularly attend school. While unnecessary excused and unexcused absences should be avoided, Pitt County Board of Education Policy 4400 attempts to balance occasional necessary, excused absences and convey compulsory state attendance policies for students between the ages of 7 (or younger if enrolled) and 16.

The full policy is available at https://www.boardpolicyonline.com/bl/?b=pitt_co#&&hs=1568460. Pursuant to the policy, students between the ages of 7 (or younger if enrolled) and 16 must attend school, except for those legitimate, lawful reasons for temporary non-attendance as set forth by the NC State Board of Education.

Students are regarded as being in attendance when participating in **school-sponsored activities** (i.e. field trips sponsored by the school, CTE job shadowing and work-based learning opportunities, school-initiated and scheduled activities, school athletic events requiring early dismissal from school, CTE student organizations approved in advance by the principal, and in-school suspensions).

Excused Absences: An absence may be excused for any of the following reasons:

- Personal **illness or injury** that makes the student physically unable to attend school;
- **Isolation** of the student ordered State Board of Health;
- **Death of an immediate family member** (includes but is not limited to grandparents, parents, siblings);
- **Medical or dental appointments**;
- Attendance of a student at **court or administrative tribunal proceedings** if the student is a part of the action or under subpoena as a witness.
- A minimum of two days each academic year for **the observance of an event required or suggested by the religion of the student or the student's parent**;
- With prior approval of the principal sought at least five days prior to participation in a valid educational opportunity, **up to three days for participation in a valid educational opportunity**, such as travel or service as a legislative or Governor's page;
- With prior approval of the principal, **up to two days each academic year for a high school junior or senior to visit college campuses** in order to qualify for scholarships, attend orientation sessions or determine whether to apply for admission;
- **Pregnancy and related conditions** or parenting when medically necessary;
- Visitation with a parent/legal guardian, if the student is not identified as at risk of academic failure because of unexcused absences, and **the student's parent or legal guardian (a) is an active duty member of the uniformed services and (b) has been called to duty for, is on leave from, or has immediately returned from deployment to a combat zone or combat support posting**.

When a student is absent for any of the reasons listed above, parents should submit a written excuse to the student's teacher or school within five school days of the student's return. Such documentation shall be kept on file. If there is any question regarding lawful absences, a person designated by the principal shall make contact with the parent or guardian of the child. Written excuses submitted after five (5) school days will not

change the absence from unexcused to excused. No more than five (5) days per semester may be excused with parent or guardian notes. After five parent-excused days in a semester, all additional absences require official documentation to be considered excused unless otherwise approved by the principal or designee.

If a student is to be absent for medical or dental appointments, court or administrative proceedings, religious observances or educational opportunities, the parent shall, except in emergencies, file the excuse and the dates for absences with the principal ahead of the date that the student is to be absent

Out of School Suspension: Absences resulting from out-of-school suspension shall not deny the student the opportunity to make up missed assignments or take quarterly, semester, or grading period examinations missed during the period of suspension (G.S. 115C-390.5).

Tardiness/Early Dismissal: Attendance in school for the full time allotted for classes is essential for student success. Unexcused Tardies/Early Dismissals cost your child valuable educational instruction. Those also interrupt the learning process for other students. Additionally, punctuality is an important trait to reinforce at school. Students are expected to arrive at school and class on time and stay for the entire day of instruction.

Excused Absences: Excused absences are still absences and are counted as such. However, student grades may not be lowered as a result of the lawful absences. Tests and work missed may be made up by the student within five school days upon return to school in the case of excused absences for a valid educational opportunity and within a reasonable period of time for all other excused absences. A reasonable period will be determined at the school level.

Unlawful Absences: Make-up work for unlawful (unexcused) absences will be at the discretion of the principal and must be completed within five (5) school days of the student's return. Extensions may be granted at the discretion of the teacher in cases of extenuating circumstances..

Required Attendance for Students in Grades K-8: Students are required to be in attendance at least 160 school days to receive required credit. Any exception to this policy shall be ruled on by the principal. Parents who are denied an exception may appeal the decision to the Board of Education. Requests for a board hearing must be received in the Superintendent's office no later than the fifth business day after grades are reported.

Required Attendance for Students in Grades 9-12: Any student under the age of 16 must adhere to the Compulsory Attendance Law. Additionally, students in grades 9-12 who are chronically absent (excused, unexcused, or suspended for more than 10% of the days enrolled) are at risk of not mastering the course content. Additionally, any student in grades 9-12 who exceeds ten (10) unexcused absences in any course during a semester may be referred for academic and/or attendance interventions and will not automatically receive credit for the course toward graduation. However, students may restore eligibility for course credit through one of the following options:

1. **Learning Recovery Process**

   An opportunity for students to recover missed instructional content through the Learning Recovery Process will be communicated to students and their parents/ guardians by a principal or designee.

   The principal or designee will determine the required recovery tasks based on course objectives and district guidelines. Students must complete all recovery tasks and all incomplete coursework in a prompt manner with all work being completed no later than the end of the semester in which the Learning Recovery Process is offered.

   If the student successfully completes the Learning Recovery Process by the end of the semester in which it is offered, the course grade will reflect the original earned numeric grade.

If the student does not complete Learning Recovery Process by the end of the semester, a final grade of Incomplete (INC) will remain on the student's record, and a Learning Recovery Contract will be implemented.

2. **Waiver Process**

Students with extenuating circumstances may request a waiver from the attendance requirement by submitting a written request with supporting documentation to the principal. A waiver may be granted in the sole discretion of the principal after a review of the written submission.

A principal's decision concerning course credit and excessive absences may be appealed to the board at the conclusion of the semester in which the absences occurred. Requests for a board hearing must be received in the superintendent's office no later than the fifth business day after grades are reported.

Noncompliance with the General Compulsory Attendance Law (NCGS 115C-378): The parent, guardian, or custodian of a student shall notify the school of the reason for each known absence of the student in accordance with the Pitt County Schools policy.

Whenever a student has accumulated three unlawful absences in a school year, the principal or his/her designee shall notify the parent, guardian, or custodian of the student's excessive absences. After not more than six unlawful absences, the principal or his/her designee shall notify the parent, guardian or custodian by mail that he/she may be in violation of the Compulsory Attendance Law and may be prosecuted if the absences cannot be justified under the established attendance policies of the State and of the Pitt County Schools. Following this notification, the counselor or school social worker shall work with the student and the family to eliminate the attendance problems and may request that a law enforcement officer accompany him/her on a home visit.

After ten accumulated unlawful absences in a school year, the principal shall review any report or investigation prepared under G.S. 115C-381 and shall confer with the student and his/her parent, guardian or custodian if possible to determine whether the parent, guardian, or custodian has received notification pursuant to this section and made a good faith effort to comply with the law. If the parent, guardian, or custodian has not made a good faith effort, the principal shall notify the District Attorney. If the principal determines that the parent, guardian, or custodian has made a good faith effort, he/she may file a complaint with the juvenile intake counselor. Evidence showing that the parent, guardian, or custodian of the student was notified of ten accumulated absences which cannot be justified by established policies of the Pitt County Schools shall constitute a prima facie case that the student's parent, guardian, or custodian is responsible for the absences.

Parent Guides for Academic Standards

To better understand what your child is learning in school, the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction provides grade level guides that contain information about 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 to support students. Links to the guides are provided below.

English Language Arts	https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/office-teaching-and-learning/standard-course-study/english-language-arts
English Language Development	https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/office-teaching-and-learning/standard-course-study/english-language-development
K-5 Math	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1m_I-Cy5cq-22FJamR15WEsVxRKcPV0kp
6-8 Math	https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1zhsgBDudy2wEPxcjX8lIkOSBwtpZii3N

Social Studies	https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/office-teaching-and-learning/standard-course-study/social-studies/standard-course-study-supporting-resources#SocialStudiesParentGuides-8735
Science	https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/office-teaching-and-learning/standard-course-study/science

Reading and Literacy Support

In addition to the grade level guides, parents can practice and reinforce important literacy skills with their children who are being assessed with mCLASS reading assessments through Amplify Home Connect. The link to access this resource is: https://mclass.amplify.com/homeconnect/?_gl=1*owme1s*_ga*MTc3MjYzNzY1Ny4xNjkyNjY3MjY1*_ga_KB37BKPPF6*MTY5ODA3NTkxMi42LjEuMTY5ODA3NTkyMy40OS4wLjA.

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:

- Phonemic awareness
- Phonics
- Vocabulary
- Fluency
- Comprehension
- 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 school's principal. DCRI Printable Activities are available at https://drive.google.com/file/d/1_XxE21kXqRo5iAJ7CJfdU-3zXx9uhawQ/view.

Strengthening a Child's Citizenship, Realization of High Expectations, & Lifetime Learning

Like the grade level guides and Amplify Home Connect, Pitt County Schools' Profile of a Learner and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Portrait of a Graduate provide key information for parents to support a child's citizenship, realization of high expectations, and lifetime learning. The Profiles embed developmentally appropriate milestones for students to develop citizenship and social skills, set high expectations, develop respect for others, and become lifetime learners. Parents seeking to support their children in these areas can find information to support their efforts in the Portrait of a Learner and Portrait of a Graduate.

Profile of a Learner can be accessed at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/6858. Portrait of a Graduate can be accessed at https://www.dpi.nc.gov/documents/statesuperintendent/portrait-graduate/open.

PARENT-SCHOOL COMMUNICATION

Overview

Pitt County Schools encourages regular, two-way meaningful communication between parents and schools. Schools regularly share announcements with parents and students about upcoming opportunities, evaluations, and other events. Parents are encouraged to engage with school communication and to reach out for clarification if needed. Teachers and school staff also welcome parent communication to support student learning. Additionally, students benefit from having their parents show interest in their educational progress by having regular conversations about what they are learning in school. The sections in this Part of the Guide are geared toward supporting productive, student focused communication.

Requesting In-Person Meetings with School Staff

If parents wish to meet in-person with their children's teachers or principal, calling the school or e-mailing the teacher or principal in advance to schedule an appointment is strongly recommended. Throughout the instructional day and before and after school, school staff are working to serve students. As a result, they may be teaching, participating in professional learning teams, addressing a medical emergency, or have other conflicting meetings. While all parent concerns are important to Pitt County Schools' staff, coming to school without a scheduled appointment can lead to wait times or potentially having to return to the school on a conflicting day. Pages 2-3 of this Guide list contact information for schools that parents can utilize to set up appointments.

Productive, Student Focused Communication

It is the expectation of Pitt County Schools that communication between parents and school staff be respectful, productive, and student-focused. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has provided guides for parents to provide suggestions for building strong relationships with their children's teachers and to support communication between the home and school. These guides include Building Strong Relationships with Your Child's Teacher, How You Can Use Questions to Support your Child's Learning, and other resources to support effective communication, including webinars.

School administrators reserve the right to restrict parent communication with staff should communication become disrespectful, unproductive, or lacking in student focus. If such a restriction is imposed, the parent will direct communication to the school in a manner specified by the school administrator.

Examples of disrespectful communication include but are not limited to the use of profanity, vulgar language or images, or sexual content. Examples of unproductive communication or communication that is lacking in student focus would include but not be limited to directly attacking a teacher for imposing discipline. Concerns over discipline and other personnel related concerns should be directed to the principal of a school.

Communication Resources

Pitt County Schools ("PCS") uses the following platforms for communication between home and school.

- Finalsite Mass Notification
- Home Base Parent Portal
- Class Dojo, Remind App, staff email
- Safety Tip Line

The communication platforms provided by PCS are not public forums and use of these platforms is a privilege and not a legal right. The platforms are provided to parents and guardians for the purpose of gaining information from the school or school staff to support students' education and to ask questions, obtain information, and engage in dialogue about their children's education.

The chart below outlines what the purpose of these platforms and how and when to access them.

Finalsite Mass Notification	Finalsite (formerly Blackboard) Mass Notification is a messaging system that allows PCS to personally communicate with parents via phone, email or text about emergency situations, school events, school closings and delays, and important issues relative to your child's school or the entire district. **How to Access** ● Provide your most up-to date phone number and/ or email address to the data manager for your child's school. ● By providing a phone number and/ or an email address, you are consenting to receive communication from PCS to the contact information provided. ● If you wish to opt-out of mass communication, please follow the prompts at the end of mass notifications to unsubscribe.
Infinite Campus Portal	Infinite Campus Portal helps keep parents connected and informed about what is happening in their children's classrooms by providing real-time information on attendance, grades, and class assignments. Through the platform, students can keep up with assignments, parents can track their children's progress, and teachers can more easily share information about student progress with parents and students. **How to Access** ● To access Infinite Campus Portal, parents should visit https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/12129. ● Only one log-in is needed for parents with multiple students to view progress for each child.
Class Dojo, Remind App, staff email	At the classroom and program level, methods for reaching teachers, club leaders, academic advisors, and other school personnel will be shared with parents. Class Dojo, the Remind App, or even email may be options for communicating with school staff. **How to Access:** Information on these platforms is shared at the school level. Typically, school staff will share the methods to best communicate and how to access the platforms.
Tip Line	In addition to the PCS App, parents and students can report information about drugs, bullying, fighting, safety risks, threats, vandalism, weapons, or other safety risks online through the PCS Tip Line. When providing a tip, please specify which school and sufficient details for school staff to act on what is shared. If you see something, please say something so that we can work to keep our schools safe. **How to Access:** The tip line can be accessed through https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/5417.

Social Media Platforms & Websites

In addition to resources that are reserved for communication between parents and the school, Pitt County Schools and schools within our district may share announcements and other information through its social media pages, the District website and individual school websites. Please follow us and bookmark the websites for our District and your child's school to obtain important updates.

Like the communication platforms noted above, PCS social media pages and websites are not public forums but moderated discussion boards reviewed periodically during normal business hours. To further the purpose of these moderated discussion boards, PCS will remove comments to posts that are (1) clearly off topic from the particular post; (2) spam; (3) contain profanity, vulgar language/ images, or sexual content; (4) advocate for illegal activity; or (5) violate PCS policies on bullying, harassment, or nondiscrimination. Content posted on PCS websites and social media pages do not reflect the official opinions of PCS, or its officers and employees unless they specifically state that they do. Parents with specific concerns are strongly encouraged to reach out to the school using one of the communication methods indicated above instead of social media.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTAL PARTICIPATION

We are honored to have parents give their time to support our school system. In addition to school and classroom initiatives that are enhanced by parent volunteer support, parents can participate in parent organizations and serve on advisory councils. Opportunities for parents to participate in Pitt County Schools are described below.

School & Classroom Volunteer Opportunities

Throughout the year, schools or parent organizations associated with schools may seek parent volunteers to support field trips, fundraisers, student recognition events, EOG exam proctoring, curriculum nights, field days, classroom support (e.g. read aloud), and career days. Announcements about these opportunities will be shared throughout the year by your child's school or a parent organization associated with the school. Parents seeking to volunteer for an opportunity that involves direct, unsupervised contact with students other than their own child must complete a Volunteer Background Check Request Form and complete a background check. More information on the Volunteer Background Check Screening Process is available at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/human-resources/volunteering.

Parent Organizations

Parent organizations, such as parent teacher organizations, parent teacher associations, and booster clubs, are an opportunity for parents to become engaged in their children's schools. By working with the principal and other key staff to understand the goals of a school, parent organizations enhance opportunities for students and support school staff. Participation in parent organizations is always voluntary.

If a school does not have a parent organization, parents interested in starting a parent organization should contact the principal. Pitt County Schools offers support to all parent organizations through PCS Engage. For more information on parent organizations, please review Pitt County Board of Education Policy 5010. https://www.boardpolicyonline.com/bl/?b=pitt_co#&&hs=1568467

School Improvement Teams

A School Improvement Team (SIT) is a group of teachers, administrators and parents who work together to improve the overall quality of the school and its programs. Each school in Pitt County has a SIT that develops the School Improvement Plan (SIP). This plan identifies the school's efforts to improve student performance and reach the educational goals of the school, county, and school board. If you are interested in serving on the SIT team for your child's school, please contact your school's principal.

Community Media Advisory Committee

The Community Media Advisory Committee (CMAC) hears appeals of school media advisory committee decisions on objections to instructional materials. CMAC members are appointed by the Pitt County Board of Education. Parent members of CMAC will serve for a term of three (3) years or until their children age out of Pitt County Schools (whichever comes sooner). Announcements to apply for CMAC will be shared once every three years or as needed for applicants. Parents should monitor PCS social media and website announcements for application information. If you have questions about CMAC, please contact Carol Rankin, crankin@pitt.k12.nc.us.

Pitt County Educational Foundation

The Pitt County Educational Foundation (PCEF) is a non-profit organization that operates separately and independently from Pitt County Schools with the mission of transforming Pitt County through excellence in Pitt County public education. The foundation provides mini-grants to teachers to support learning and curriculum enrichment and supports teacher professional development with a variety of initiatives. The PCEF also manages a number of scholarship funds that support Pitt County Schools' graduates with post-secondary educational expenses.

Parents can support the work of PCEF by raising awareness and serving on mini-grant committees.

To make learn more about PCEF, please visit https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/pitt-county-educational-foundation. All donations to PCEF support students and teachers.

STUDENT FEES

Schools collect fees to enhance instructional programming for students and to offset expenses (e.g. damage to buildings or property). Money collected through student fees is spent directly on students. Principals can share additional information on how student fees are used in a particular school to support students.

All school fees are approved by the Pitt County Board of Education and kept to the lowest amount possible. Teachers may also request that students purchase classroom materials which the teacher believes are critical to the standard course of study.

The preferred method for paying school fees is School Cash Online (https://pcs.schoolcashonline.com/), but parents may also pay by cash or check. Any fees imposed will be waived or reduced at the discretion of the principal for students who demonstrate economic hardship.

2026-2027 School Fees

Student Fee for All Students	$25.00 per year	
High School Fees	Club Dues	$1.00 per club unless affiliated with a national/ state organization
	Parking	$50.00 Per Year
	Graduation	At Cost (graduating seniors only)
	Locks	At Cost
	Gym Uniform	At Cost
Return Check Fees	$25.00 per returned check	
Damage to School Property	Cost to repair or replace the item will be assessed to parents	

SERVICES AVAILABLE FOR PARENTS AND STUDENTS

A number of services offered by Pitt County Schools and other organizations can help support student learning. These resources are described below.

Afterschool Programs

Pitt County Schools offers afterschool programs for students in grades K-5 at the following schools: Chicod, Creekside, Eastern, Elmhurst, H.B. Sugg/ Sam D. Bundy, Lakeforest, Ridgewood, W.H. Robinson, and Wintergreen. To register for afterschool, please visit https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/student-services/student-services/after-school-program.

Students who are in second through fourth grade and in need of additional academic support may be selected to participate in the Early Grade Student Success Academy (EGSSA). EGSSA is offered in partnership with the United Way of Pitt County at the following schools:

- Ayden Elementary
- Belvoir Elementary
- Creekside Elementary
- Eastern Elementary
- Falkland Elementary
- Grifton School
- H.B. Sugg/ Sam D. Bundy Elementary
- Pactolus School
- South Greenville Elementary
- Stokes School
- W.H. Robinson School
- Wahl-Coates Elementary

Students participating in EGSSA receive support in the areas of leadership, ELA, Math, STEM, and homework completion from 2:30 pm-5:30 pm Mondays through Thursdays. The program is provided with the support of an ELIS grant and families are not charged to participate.

In addition to these programs, Pitt County Schools has compiled a list of afterschool and daycare options for parents seeking these services for their children. Please visit https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/10021. This list is provided as a resource for parents based on our current van ridership list and is not an endorsement of any program.

College Planning, Academic Advising, & Career Development Counseling

Students in middle school and high school seeking advice on college planning should meet with their school counselors for guidance. Additionally, students can obtain information on college and career planning through the software program, SchooLinks. School counselors and the high school graduation coach in each high school also are a wonderful resource for academic advising, while career development coordinators can help students with career development and planning.

Mentoring

Schools through staff and students or in partnership with community groups offer a wide variety of mentoring programs. For information on mentoring programs that may be available in your child's school, please contact the principal or school counselor.

Optional Accident Insurance

Parents have the option to purchase Student Accident Insurance through a company called QBE. A description of the annual premiums charged by QBE for Student Accident Insurance follows below.

	Plan 1	**Plan 2**	**Plan 3**	**Plan 4**
School Time	$35.00	$18.00	$11.00	$10.00
24-Hour	$160.00	$88.00	$55.00	$50.00
Extended Dental	$8.00	$8.00	$8.00	$8.00

More information is available at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/456.

Parent Support

Parents who are looking for guidance in raising confident, healthy children and teenagers or building stronger family relationships may wish to participate in the Triple P – Positive Parenting Program. Triple P is one of the world's most effective parenting programs. It is one of the few based on evidence from ongoing scientific research, with more than 230 trials and studies around the world showing it works – regardless of a family's culture, country, or situation. Triple P does not tell participants how to parent. Instead, it offers simple and practical strategies that can be adapted to suit a participant's values, beliefs, or needs. For more information, visit the North Carolina Triple P website: www.triplep-parenting.com or call Pitt County's Lead Coordinator at 252-902-2308.

Student Counseling Services

School counselors are available in all Pitt County Schools to provide critical on-site direct services and essential student services coordination. Counselors provide developmental, preventive, and responsive direct services to students through individual and group counseling, group guidance, academic and career planning, student assessment, consultation, referral, and follow-up. Indirect services include the coordination of other support services within the district and from outside agencies, assisting teachers in integrating guidance goals into classroom instruction, and consultation and collaboration within the schools, with parents and with the community to address student needs.

Tutoring

Pitt County Schools is pleased to offer tutoring services to all students through Tutor.com. This service is accessible through your child's ClassLink account. Additionally, NCVPS EdVantage Tutoring offers virtual statewide wraparound support to middle and high school students in North Carolina public schools. Tutoring is available in Math, Science, and ELA and is offered via a personalized partnership with district leadership to best meet the needs of selected students each semester.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS' ACCESS TO EDUCATION

Article I, Section 15 of the North Carolina Constitution states that the "people have a right to the privilege of education, and it is the duty of the State to guard and maintain that right." Recognizing this right, the Pitt County Board of Education and Pitt County Schools' staff are deeply committed to providing a free and appropriate education to all children who are legally entitled to enroll in our schools. The parts that follow describe the supports provided by Pitt County Schools to enable students to access educational services.

SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES

Pitt County Schools offers health services support to students in two general areas: (1) related services to support students with an IEP or 504 plan and (2) services to support the overall health of the school community.

To provide related services to support students with an IEP or 504 plan, Pitt County Schools employs and contracts with occupational therapists, physical therapists, speech language pathologists, audiologists, nurses, and certified nursing assistants to support students. The provision of related services is an IEP or 504 team decision based on the documented needs of a student, and parents are part of the process to develop plans to support a student that include these related services.

To support the overall health of our school community, Pitt County Schools is proud to partner with ECU Health to provide school nurses. In general, school nurses serve as a link between schools, parents, and healthcare providers and proactively coordinate services to manage students' health needs during the school day. They provide the following services to support our school community:

- Training first responders to respond to routine first aid and in the event of a medical emergency;
- At the request of parents and subject to certain requirements, developing individualized health plans and/or or emergency action plans and participating in the development of 504 plans and training key staff in how to implement a student's IHP, emergency action plan, and/ or 504 plan;
- Coordinating vision and dental screenings to determine if a student is experiencing a difference in any of these areas and providing information from the screenings so that parents can follow-up with an outside provider; and

- Supporting school health by sharing health information, coordinating with parents and the health department if a contagious disease or condition arises in our schools, and providing medical information in response to student questions.

If available during a health emergency or to provide first aid, school nurses may also take action to respond.

In addition to school nurses, Pitt County Schools' speech language pathologists (SLPs) and audiologists assist with the coordination of hearing screenings. Like the vision and dental screenings coordinated by school nurses, hearing screenings are intended to determine if a student is experiencing a difference in the area of hearing so that parents can follow up with an outside provider.

One additional measure taken by Pitt County Schools to support overall student health is to provide mental health supports to students. The supports offered by Pitt County Schools are not formal therapeutic services, but through informal counseling, school nurses, psychologists, counselors, and social workers are often the first staff to recognize that a student may be experiencing a mental health concern.

More details on the health services offered to support student learning and other measures to promote healthy school communities are described below.

Routine First Aid & Emergency Aid

Pursuant to state law, school personnel are authorized to provide routine first aid in the event of a minor accident at school and emergency aid in the event of a medical emergency.

Consistent with this, school nurses and school staff trained as first responders often provide routine first aid to students. Some examples of routine first aid include helping a student clean and bandage a cut or scrape or putting ice on a twisted ankle.

Should a major medical emergency arise, school nurses or first responders in coordination with school administrators will call 911 for assistance from emergency medical services (EMS) and take action to address the emergency until EMS arrives. In the event of a medical emergency, the cost of emergency medical services will be billed to parents by the EMS provider.

To support the response to medical emergencies, the Pitt County Board of Education has adopted policies directing staff to stock certain emergency supplies in schools including, **epinephrine delivery systems**, **automated external defibrillators**, and **naloxone**.

- **Epinephrine delivery systems devices** are addressed in Pitt County Board of Education Policy 5024/ 6127/ 7266. By policy, at least two emergency epinephrine delivery systems are located at each school to aid any person suffering from an anaphylactic reaction during the school day or at a school-sponsored event on school property.

- **Automated external defibrillators (AEDs)** are addressed in Pitt County Board of Education Policy 5028/6130/7267. By policy, AEDs are provided in designated locations within schools to assist individuals who experience sudden cardiac arrest on school property.

- **Naloxone** is addressed in Pitt County Board of Education Policy 5023/ 6132/ 7268. By policy, naloxone is provided in the event of an emergency to help address potential opioid overdoses.

While Pitt County Schools works to provide and regularly monitor epinephrine delivery systems, AEDs, and naloxone, nothing here should be construed to require the presence or use of an epinephrine delivery system, AED, or naloxone on school property or at school sponsored events, unless otherwise required by law. Pitt County Schools cannot and does not guarantee that an epinephrine delivery system, AED, naloxone, or a person trained in their use will be available at any particular school site or school-sponsored event.

Additionally, epinephrine delivery systems, AEDs, and naloxone provided by the school are not intended, and cannot be used, as the sole supply for students known to have medical conditions requiring the availability of an epinephrine delivery systems, AED, or naloxone. Parents of students with the need for any of these supplies should provide the school with written instructions and orders from the student's healthcare provider, plus all of the relevant devices and/ or medications in accordance with Policy 6125, Administration of Medication. If an epinephrine delivery system, AED, or naloxone is utilized to support a student during the instructional day or at a school-sponsored event, 911 will be called to activate EMS.

The Pitt County Board of Education, its agents, and its employees expressly reserve all immunities from civil liability which are available to them under state or federal law, including governmental immunity and the statutory immunities set forth in Sections 90-21.14, 90-21.15, and 115C-375.1 of the North Carolina General Statutes. Any school personnel authorized by the Pitt County Board of Education or its designee to act shall not be liable for civil damages for any authorized act or for any omission relating to that act unless the act or omission amounts to gross negligence, wanton conduct, or intentional wrongdoing.

Management of Chronic Health Conditions & Administration of Medication to Students

School nurses work to develop individual health plans (IHPs) for students who have a chronic health condition (e.g. asthma, diabetes, allergies, seizures, sickle cell, etc.) or who need to take medication during the instructional day. Depending on the needs of a student, a school nurse may also work with the school counselor to develop a 504 plan to support the student or an emergency action plan if the student's condition could result in a medical emergency at school.

Parents seeking support for their child for the management of a chronic health condition will need to provide the school nurse with documentation from their healthcare provider regarding the condition and possible care and accommodations. For students who have asthma, severe allergies or diabetes, healthcare providers will be asked to complete additional forms to guide school nurses in developing action plans for the students.

Parents seeking to have a prescription or non-prescription medication administered to their child at school should adhere to the following.

1. The parent and physician must complete an "Authorization for Medication" form which can be obtained at a healthcare provider's office or through a school's administrative office.

2. All medication administered (prescription and non-prescription) by school personnel must be presented in the original container.

3. If a student needs a non-prescription (over-the-counter) medication during school hours, an "Authorization for Medication" form must be provided to the school completed by a health care provider and the parent specifying the dosage, time and frequency of medication.

4. School personnel responsible for dispensing medication (prescription and non-prescription) shall keep a "Medication Log" or electronic health record to document when medication is dispensed to the student.

5. Parents are responsible for informing the school principal of any serious changes in the child's health or any change in the medication to be administered. Changes in medication, including altered dosage and changes in time and frequency of administration, require authorization from the prescribing physician on a new "Authorization for Medication" form.

6. All medications shall be transported to and from school by the parent for elementary and middle school students. The only exception is that with prior documentation on the "Authorization for Medication" form, students who have permission to self-medicate may carry rescue medications (e.g. asthma inhaler, insulin).

7. It is a privilege for students to be allowed to self-medicate during school hours. Abuse of this privilege will result in its revocation.

8. Under no circumstances will unauthorized over-the-counter medication be given to any student by any member of the school staff.

9. At the end of the year, "Authorization for Medication" forms and daily medication logs shall be filed in students' health folders.

10. At the end of each school year, schools will notify parents/guardians that medications should be picked up from school or they will be disposed of if they remain on school property after a designated date.

More information on the administration of medication to students is available in Pitt County Board of Education Policy 6125. In general, it is the goal of Pitt County Schools to limit the presence of prescription and non-prescription medicines on its campuses and to prohibit student self-administration of medication (except in certain circumstances). Students who are able to take required medications before or after school will be asked to do so.

Vision, Dental, & Hearing Screenings

To support student health, Pitt County Schools provides vision, dental, and hearing screenings to students. The screenings are not intended to prevent, diagnose, or treat a disease or illness. Instead, they enable early detection of a potential health concern, such as a vision or hearing difference, and empower parents to take follow up action with an outside healthcare provider chosen by the parent.

In general, vision screenings are provided to all students in first, third, fifth, and seventh grades. Hearing screenings are provided to all students in kindergarten and seventh grade. Dental screenings are provided to all students in kindergarten. Additionally, vision and hearing screenings may be utilized as part of the MTSS process to help determine if a student may be experiencing a difference in vision or hearing that may be contributing to the student having difficulty accessing instruction in school.

Parents do not have to take any action to consent to these screenings, but if a parent wishes to opt his or her child out of a screening, the parent should notify the principal of their child's school. Notices with opt out instructions will also be sent at least ten days prior to any grade-level screening. MTSS screenings are undertaken without prior notice to avoid delays in supporting student learning

Measures to Support the Health of the School Community

Awareness of Certain Conditions and Vaccinations to Prevent Them: Sections 115C-375.4 and 115C-47(51) of the North Carolina General Statutes mandate that schools provide parents with information about **meningitis**, **influenza**, **HPV**, **cervical cancer**, **cervical dysplasia**, and **vaccines that can help prevent these conditions** at the beginning of every school year.

- **Influenza**, commonly called "the flu," is a respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses and can be easily spread to others. Symptoms of the flu include fever, headache, extreme tiredness, dry cough, sore throat, runny or stuffy nose, and muscle aches. Other symptoms, such as nausea, vomiting, and diarrhea, are much more common among children than adults.

  There is a vaccine that prevents the flu. It is recommended because the flu can lead to other serious illnesses and even death in young children, older adults and vulnerable people of all ages. The ideal time to obtain a flu shot is in the fall. Good health habits such as frequent hand washing, avoiding close contact with people who are sick, and covering your mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing may also help prevent the spread of illnesses like the flu.

- **Meningococcal Meningitis** is a form of bacterial meningitis that is a rare, but potentially fatal infection that can cause severe swelling of the fluid around the brain and spinal cord. The disease is spread from person to person through the air or by contact with saliva, usually through close, personal contact with an infected person. Symptoms progress rapidly and may resemble flu. Those can include fever, headache, stiff neck, nausea, vomiting, confusion, sleepiness, and sensitivity to light. Some people may also develop a rash, mainly on their arms and legs.

  A safe and effective vaccine is available to protect against four of the five most common types of meningitis. Studies have shown that certain college students are especially at risk and that a high percentage of cases in college students can be prevented with the vaccination. Presently, state law requires students entering seventh grade or who have reached the age of 12, whichever is sooner, to be vaccinated for meningococcal meningitis. Additionally, state law requires students entering twelfth grade or who have reached the age of 17, whichever is sooner, to receive a booster dose of the meningococcal meningitis vaccine. See pages 8-9 of this Guide for more information on this vaccination requirement.

- **Human Papillomavirus (HPV)** is a common virus that is spread to another person by skin-to-skin contact in the genital area. Many people get HPV and do not have symptoms, but can spread the virus to others. HPV is most common in young women and men who are in their late teens and early 20's. Some types of HPV can infect a woman's cervix and can cause cervical dysplasia which leads to cancer over time if not treated.

  The only sure protection against HPV infection is lifelong abstinence or a monogamous relationship with an uninfected partner. However, a new vaccine can now protect females and males (ages 9 to 26) from four major types of HPV, which can lead to cervical cancer and genital warts. The vaccine is given as a series of three shots over six months and is recommended for all 11- and 12-year-old girls and boys and all males and females 13-26 years of age who did not receive it when they were younger.

- Information on **Cervical Cancer and Cervical Dysplasia** and their vaccines can be found at www.cdc.gov/vaccines/. Those without internet access may contact a school nurse or the Pitt County Health Department for more information.

If parents wish to obtain additional information about any of these conditions or the vaccinations that help prevent them, please consult your family physician or the Pitt County Department of Public Health for additional. Other resources include:

www.immunize.nc.gov – Immunization Branch, N.C. Department of Health and Human Services
www.cdc.gov/flu – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Flu Home Page
https://www.cdc.gov/index.html – CDC (Disease Information)
www.immunizationinfo.org – National Network for Immunization Information

Communicable Diseases & Conditions: School nurses help school staff respond if a student or staff member has a communicable disease or condition which may impact other members of the school community. In some instances, a disease may require a report to the health department. In other instances, a report may not be required, but other protocols are utilized by staff to minimize the impact on other members of the school community.

- **Reportable Diseases** include measles, tuberculosis, whooping cough, and over eighty diseases listed at https://epi.dph.ncdhhs.gov/cd/lhds/manuals/cd/reportable_diseases.html. Section 130A-136 of the North Carolina General Statutes requires school principals, who have reason to suspect that a student or adult in the school has a communicable disease or condition, to report the information required to the local health director in the county in which the school is located. The confidentiality of such reports is protected by law, and school principals making such reports in good faith are immune from liability.

The diseases and conditions that are declared to be dangerous to public health are reportable to the local health department within specific time periods after the disease or condition is reasonably suspected to exist. The local health director will advise the school of any precautionary action(s) needed to prevent the spread of disease and may ask that certain follow up be taken for affected school community members.

A safe and secure environment shall be provided for all students and employees. Under certain circumstances, students with communicable diseases or conditions may pose a threat to the health and safety of others. Decisions regarding the educational status of students with communicable diseases will be made on a case-by-case basis in accordance with Policy 4230. The following protocols are observed for varicella (chickenpox) and streptococcal and staphylococcal Infections:

- Varicella (Chickenpox): Student is excluded from school until all blisters have formed scabs.

- Streptococcal and Staphylococcal Infections: Student is excluded from school until treated with a prescription antibiotic for 24 hours.

- School nurses also recommend the following protocols to respond to **Non Reportable Contagious Diseases**:

  - Pediculosis (Head Lice): The student should be referred for treatment at the end of the school day. Until the end of the school day, avoid any activity that involves the student in head-to-head contact with other children or sharing of any headgear. The student can return to school when treatment is completed and proof of treatment (prescription or box top from over-the-counter treatment) is provided to the school.

  - Scabies: The student is excluded from school until one (1) treatment with prescription medication is completed (usually overnight).

  - Conjunctivitis (Pink Eye): The student does not need to be isolated from other students, and treatment is not required in order for the student to return to school. If a student is unable to participate in classroom activities or drainage cannot be contained, parents should be notified and consider sending the student home.

  - Impetigo: The student is considered contagious until treated with antibiotics for at least 24 hours or the crusting lesions are no longer present. If the student is at school when the lesions are discovered, direct contact with other students should be minimized to the greatest extent possible for the rest of the day. The student should remain out of direct contact with other children if he or she has more than three to four sores until seen by a physician for evaluation and treatment. The student may return to school when topical, oral, or other systemic antibiotics are initiated or if the sores can be covered and kept dry.

  - Ringworm: For ringworm of the skin, the parent must send the box top of the antifungal medicine with the child when he/she returns to school. For ringworm of the nails or scalp, the parent must send a doctor's note to school verifying treatment. Students may return to school once treatment begins.

  - MRSA (Methicillin-Resistant Staph Aureus): The student should be referred to his/her healthcare provider and is excluded from school until antibiotic treatment is started or a doctor's note is provided stating that antibiotic treatment is not necessary. Lesion(s) must be covered with a bandage/dressing that is sealed (taped) on all four sides while at school.

  - Vomiting: The student should be excluded from school when vomiting occurs 2 or more times in a 24-hour period, when there is vomiting with a fever or the child looks or acts ill. The student may return when at least 12 hours have elapsed since the last episode of vomiting.

- Diarrhea: If a student is unable to participate in classroom activities or has accompanying signs of illness such as fever then the parent school be notified. A student with frequent loose stools, especially if the student is unable to control those bowel movements, should be evaluated by a physician as the condition may lead to dehydration.

- Fever: The student is excluded from school when the student is unable to participate in classroom activities and when oral temperature is above 101 degrees (F). The student may return to school when fever-free for 24 hours without the use of fever reducing medications.

- Bed Bugs: The Pitt County Schools' Bed Bug Protocol for the prevention of bed bug infestations in the school setting is adhered to. The protocol can be accessed at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/operations/facility-services/pest-management-tips.

Education or Consultation to Provide Health Information: From time to time, school nurses may provide age appropriate information to students about the importance of healthy behaviors (e.g. handwashing, the importance of good nutrition and physical activity, how to prevent injuries when riding a bicycle or walking). School nurses may also receive requests for consultations about a variety of health related issues from students including, ADD/ADHD, asthma, child abuse/neglect, chronic illness, depression, diabetes, hygiene, illness/injury and recovery from the same, mental health issues, nutrition, pregnancy, puberty, reproductive health, seizure disorders, severe allergies, substance abuse including tobacco use, prescription abuse, suicidal ideation, violence/bullying, and relationships (dating/parents/friends). While nurses are able to provide information to students about these topics, they do not diagnose conditions or prescribe treatment and will recommend that students follow up their parents to receive support and treatment from outside providers. Nurses may also facilitate conversations between students and their parents and will never discourage a student from reporting a health condition to their parents. Parents do not have to take any action to consent to their child consulting a school nurse, but if a parent wishes to opt his or her child out of consultations, the parent should notify the principal of their child's school.

Mental Health Supports: One additional measure taken by Pitt County Schools to support overall student health is to provide mental health supports to students. The supports offered by Pitt County Schools are not formal therapeutic services, but through informal counseling, school nurses, psychologists, counselors, and social workers are often the first staff to recognize that a student may be experiencing a mental health concern. If any of these staff members have a concern that the student is at risk for suicide or self-harm or the issue that the student requires further care and follow-up, parents will be notified and connected with resources. Parents do not have to take any action to consent to their child consulting with school staff who provide mental health supports, but if a parent wishes to opt his or her child out of mental health supports, the parent should notify the principal of their child's school.

Anytime that you feel that your child is potentially suicidal or may self-harm, contact Mobile Crisis at 1-866-437-1821 or call or text 988 to reach the National Suicide Crisis Lifeline. The National Suicide Crisis Lifeline can also be reached for chat from a web browser https://988lifeline.org/chat/. Families can utilize school based resources to support student mental health described in the next section or seek private providers through their physician or Trillium.

Partnerships with Outside Agencies to Support Student Physical and Mental Health: Pitt County Schools is proud to partner with Contentnea Health which operates a clinic on the campus of J.H. Rose High School that provides student physical and mental health services and with Integrated Family Services, PRIDE in North Carolina, and ECU Medical Family Therapy and Marriage and Family Therapy Department which provide school-based mental health services to students. Students may ONLY access services from these partner agencies with the express written consent of their parents or guardians. The services are offered in schools to provide ease of access for families.

SCHOOL NUTRITION

In partnership with the US Department of Agriculture which oversees the Healthy, Hunger Free Kids Act of 2010 (HHFKA), Pitt County Schools' School Nutrition Services staff are proud to provide breakfast and lunch to students each day.

Menus

Monthly Menus are shared on the School Nutrition section of the Pitt County Schools' website. Parents can review menu options and carbohydrate counts at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/86.

Accessing Breakfast and Lunch

To obtain breakfast or lunch or purchase a la carte items, students will need to enter their **meal number** or **student identification** number at the point of sale. The entry of meal numbers or student identification numbers is necessary to ensure that Pitt County Schools meets USDA program requirements and to prevent students with allergies from encountering allergens in their meals.

Meal Charges: In a typical school year, students pay a charge at the point of service to purchase a "**reimbursable meal**" (i.e. breakfast or lunch). Students whose families are experiencing financial hardship may submit an **application for free or reduced price meals**. The application for free or reduced price meals must be submitted annually and is accessible at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/4680. Some schools may qualify as Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) Schools, and at these schools, students may receive a reimbursable meal at no charge.

Whether or not a school has CEP status or a student has qualified for free or reduced lunch status, Pitt County Schools is required to charge students for **a la carte items**. A la carte items are single items purchased either over the quantity of the reimbursable meal (e.g. a student gets more items on their tray than allowed for inclusion in the meal) or under the quantity of a reimbursable meal (e.g. a student purchases milk to go with a lunch from home).

Money to purchase reimbursable meals or a la carte items can be deposited into a student's account online 24 hours per day, 7 days per week using PaySchools Central. Through PaySchools Central, parents can

- Set up recurring payments;
- Check a student's account balance;
- Request an activity report that will display what the student has eat in the previous 30 days;
- Set up e-mail reminders to notify a parent when a student's account is low.

To access PaySchools Central, please visit www.payschoolscentral.com. To set up an account, parents will need a valid e-mail address, credit or debit card, and their children's student identification numbers.

If paying by cash or check, parents or students may deposit funds into a student's account using cash or check at the cafeteria's cash register. Students may also pay with cash at the time of service. Cafeteria cash registers are not equipped to accept debit or credit card payments.

For the 2026-2027 school year, all schools in Pitt County except for D.H. Conley High School qualify as CEP Schools. This means that students may receive the reimbursable meal at breakfast or lunch at no charge to their families. Pitt County Schools is still required to charge for a la carte items.

The Pitt County Board of Education has elected to use local funds to provide reimbursable meals to students at D.H. Conley High School. However, to minimize the impact on local funding, families experiencing financial hardship at D.H. Conley who qualify for free or reduced lunch will be asked to submit the free or reduced

lunch form. Again, the form may be accessed at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/4680, and paper copies are also provided at the school.

Special Dietary Needs

School Nutrition Services strives to meet the daily nutritional needs of all students. If your child has a disability that requires dietary modifications (e.g. food allergies or intolerance or difficulty swallowing), please work with your healthcare provider to complete a Medical Statement for Unique Mealtime Needs and submit it to your child's teacher or school nurse.

The Medical Statement for Unique Mealtime Needs is accessible at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/2082. Parents should complete Part A of the Statement. A licensed healthcare provider must complete Part B of the Statement. School staff will not accept a Statement if a parent has prepared Part B.

Both Part A and B of the Statement must be completed in their entirety **before** School Nutrition can process a dietary orders. The current Medical Statement for Unique Mealtime Needs will be honored until a new Statement is updated by a healthcare provider and received by Student Nutrition Services. School staff must follow any Statement on file and cannot make dietary changes without an updated Medical Statement for Unique Mealtime Needs.

Dietary Preferences

If your child is a vegetarian, vegan, or has other food preferences (e.g. a pork-free diet), School Nutrition Services can meet these needs with the daily variety of choices available at meals. It is the policy of Pitt County Schools to substitute regular milk with lactose free milk for lactose intolerance and to substitute regular milk with soy milk for a milk allergy.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE EXPERIENCING HOMELESSNESS OR FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

In accordance with the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Act and the North Carolina State Plan for Educating Homeless Children, the Pitt County Board of Education has directed school staff to make reasonable efforts to identify homeless children and youth of school age located within the county, encourage their enrollment, and eliminate barriers to their receiving an education that may exist in school system policies or practices. Homeless students include children and youth who lack a fixed, regular, and adequate nighttime residence or a youth who is not in the physical custody of a parent or guardian (e.g. a student in foster care). For more information on the supports available to students and families experiencing homelessness, please contact

Kim Anderson
Lead School Social Worker
1058 Moye Boulevard
Greenville, NC 27835
252-830-3578
andersk@pitt.k12.nc.us

School social workers may also be able to assist families who are not experiencing homelessness but are experiencing financial hardship.

SUPPORT FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

Access to Schools

Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act prohibit discrimination against any individual on the basis of a disability. A disability is a physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities such as performing manual tasks, seeing, hearing, eating, sleeping, walking, standing, lifting, bending, speaking, breathing, learning, reading, concentrating, thinking, communicating, and working. A major life activity also includes the operation of a major bodily function, including but not limited to, functions of the immune system, normal cell growth, digestive, bowel, bladder, neurological, brain, respiratory, circulatory, endocrine, and reproductive functions.

Any student in Pitt County Schools who has a disability; has a record of a disability; or is regarded as having a disability may qualify for a 504 Plan which provides accommodations and/or modifications to allow a student to have equal access to the educational environment. Parents who are interested in having their child evaluated for a 504 plan should set up an appointment with the Section 504 contact at their child's school. Parents may also review information about 504 Plans at https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/338.

The Section 504 Coordinator for Pitt County Schools is Sara English, Interim Executive Director of Student Services, who can be contacted by phone at (252) 830-4238 or by email at engliss1@pitt.k12.nc.us.

Specially Designed Instruction

Pursuant to the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), Pitt County Schools must provide special education services to all children residing in our district between the ages of three (3) and twenty-one (21) who have been diagnosed with or are suspected of having mental, physical, or emotional disabilities and who are unable to benefit from regular education without special education and/or related services.

Pitt County Schools welcomes all students and is committed to providing specially designed instruction and/or related services with fidelity and evidenced-based practices to students with disabilities in the least restrictive environment. If your child has or is suspected of having a disability, please contact Dawn Hester, Exceptional Children's Program Director, by phone at 252-695-7989 or by email at hesterd@pitt.k12.nc.us.

The following links provide important information regarding the procedural safeguards available to ensure a free and appropriate public education and local resources for Pitt County Schools.

Parent Rights Handbook	https://www.dpi.nc.gov/parent-rights-handbook/download?attachment (English) https://www.dpi.nc.gov/parent-rights-handbook-spanish/download?attachment (Spanish)
IDEA Dispute Resolution	https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/dispute-resolution
Special Education Surrogate Parents	https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/policies-procedures#SpecialEducationSurrogateParents-6084
Project Child Find	https://www.dpi.nc.gov/districts-schools/classroom-resources/exceptional-children/policies-procedures#ProjectChildFind-6083
PCS Exceptional Children's Department	https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/111
Pitt County Board of Education Policy 3520	https://www.boardpolicyonline.com/bl/?b=pitt_co#&&hs=1568399

TECHNOLOGY TO SUPPORT STUDENT LEARNING

Pitt County Schools provides students with a Chromebook or tablet to access software and other digital resources to support instruction. Students will also be given a Pitt County Schools' email account, and teachers may have students create accounts for digital resources, including AI-powered tools and platforms, that are directly related to instructional needs in the classroom. Teachers may also provide instruction through video conferencing tools to support at home and anytime learning.

All technological resources provided to students remain the property of Pitt County Schools. Additionally, the use of technology is subject to certain Pitt County Board of Education Policies and administrative procedures that are intended to foster student safety and appropriate behavior. Like other school system property, parents are financially responsible for any damage caused by their child to a Chromebook, tablet, or other technological resource provided by Pitt County Schools. More details on the rules governing the use of school system technology, the optional device protection plan and charges for damages to technological resources are provided in the **Administrative Procedure Governing Student Device Protection Plan Fee and Use of Loaned Devices** Section of the Parents' Guide to Conduct to Support Safe Schools and Annual Notices.

If parents wish to provide a device for their child, they must obtain permission from their child's school and adhere to additional conditions set by Pitt County Schools related to the use of the device. Parents who wish to opt their child out of a school system email account or digital resource account access should contact the Media Coordinator at their child's school.

TRANSPORTATION

Pitt County Schools' Transportation Department works to provide safe and efficient student transportation to and from school. During the regular school term, approximately 195 school buses run each day transporting approximately 12,000 students. All buses have GPS installed which is connected to the Edulog Parent Portal app. Through the app, parents can track their children's arrival at home and school. To access the app, please visit https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/Page/8804.

To register your child for transportation, please contact the data manager at your child's school. Processing time for a student to be officially assigned a bus route is 5-10 days.

To ensure the buses are safe for every rider, we ask that parents review **Pitt County Schools' Transportation Rules** and **Student Code of Conduct** with their children. You can find both of these documents in the Parents' Guide to Standards of Conduct to Support Safe Schools & Annual Notices.