



A Message from the Superintendent

2025–2026 Accountability Results

Dear Ashe County Schools Families and Community,

I am proud to share the 2025–2026 accountability results for Ashe County Schools. These results provide an important measure of student achievement and growth and, more importantly, offer evidence of the progress our students and educators continue to make.

This year, overall proficiency across state assessments reached 66.5%, exceeding the North Carolina average by 7.3 percentage points. Our overall proficiency increased 4.7 percentage points in just one year and 11.4 percentage points since 2020–2021. This sustained progress reflects years of focused work, high expectations, and a shared commitment to helping every student succeed.

There is much to celebrate across our schools:

- Every major tested grade-band aggregate exceeded the state average.
- Grades 3–8 mathematics increased to 69.5% proficiency, reflecting continued strength in mathematics.
- Combined high school proficiency increased 13 percentage points in one year to 68.6%.
- Ashe County High School earned a B, increasing its School Performance Score from 63 to 70, while Ashe Early College earned an A with a score of 90 and met academic growth.
- Every elementary school met or exceeded growth, and Blue Ridge Elementary increased by 9 points in one year, earning a B.
- Our four-year graduation rate remained above 90% for the second consecutive year at 91.0%, compared with 88.8% statewide.
- 97% of the Class of 2026 completed at least one Diploma Plus achievement, leaving high school with meaningful preparation beyond a diploma through college credit, industry credentials, career-readiness certificates, internships, and other opportunities.

These accomplishments represent far more than numbers on a report. They reflect students who continue to rise to high expectations; teachers and staff who remain deeply committed to their success; school and district leaders who stay focused on continuous improvement; families who support learning; and a Board of Education and community that continue to invest in our children.

The progress is especially meaningful given the challenges our schools have faced. Over the past two years, severe weather resulted in 87 disrupted learning days through closures, remote instruction, delayed openings, and early releases. Through it all, our students and employees continued moving forward with determination, resilience, and a strong commitment to learning.





STRONG FOUNDATIONS. *Limitless futures.*

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

While we are proud of this progress, we remain focused on what comes next. Our results also show us where we have opportunities to grow. Strengthening literacy, ensuring strong academic growth for every student and every school, and responding earlier when students need additional support remain priorities. We believe accountability means celebrating progress while continuing to raise expectations for ourselves and our students.

The North Carolina accountability results provide an important snapshot of our schools, but they cannot fully capture everything that happens within them each day, the relationships built, talents discovered, problems solved, credentials earned, leadership developed, and opportunities created for students.

Our responsibility is to keep building on our strengths while addressing the areas where students need us to be even better.

Ultimately, our goal is not a letter grade or a single test score. Our goal is continued growth and ensuring that every student is known, challenged, and prepared for what comes next.

Thank you for believing in our students, supporting our educators, and partnering with Ashe County Schools. These results give us much to celebrate and even greater confidence in what our students can continue to accomplish.

Sincerely,

Dr. Eisa M. Cox
Superintendent
Ashe County Schools

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