

Friends of Wilkes County Schools,

I take great pride in sharing with you the 2017-2018 NC School Report Card for Wilkes County Schools, as it is a clear reflection of the hard work our students and teachers model on a daily basis. The NC School Report Card contains information about school and student performance, class sizes, attendance, school safety, instructional resources and teacher quality. Much like your child's report card, our system utilizes this report card to reflect on our strengths, as well as to identify areas that we can improve. I hope this report card serves as a resource for you to learn more about our school system as well as our individual schools. I believe you will find many sources of pride.

Perhaps the greatest source of pride for our system reflected by the NC School Report Card is that students in Wilkes County performed above the state average in both reading and math for grades 3-8. This indicates that our students are receiving the academic foundation for future success. ACT results have shown an improvement over last year and our system saw a significant increase in the percentage of students achieving Grade Level Proficiency in 2017-2018. An increase of 1% in reading proficiency from 2016-2017 may not sound significant until you realize that 50 more students were reading on grade level in 2017-2018. These results provide evidence that students in grades K-12 are being prepared for success at their next level, whether that is the next grade, college or the workplace.

School letter grades were a source of pride for Wilkes County Schools in 2017-2018, as Wilkes Early College High School was among the 6.9% of schools in NC to receive a grade of "A." North Wilkes High School, Mulberry Elementary and Traphill Elementary achieved their highest letter grade (B) in the five years that schools have received grades. Overall, eight of our schools received an "A" or a "B" while only five did in 2016-2017. We expect that number to increase over the next few years.

Academic growth is considered to be a priority for Wilkes County Schools, as we expect each student who walks through our doors to grow academically each year. Sixteen of twenty-two schools either "Exceeded" or "Met" Expected Growth for 2017-2018, with Moravian Falls Elementary, Ronda-Clingman Elementary, Wilkesboro Elementary and Wilkes Early College High School "Exceeding Expected Growth". Moravian Falls Elementary accomplished this for the fifth year in a row, while Ronda-Clingman achieved for the second year in a row.

While the data reflected on this report card speaks volumes about the successes of our teachers and students, it does not share all of the great things taking place in our school system. Our middle school students continue to excel in the implementation of "Leader in Me" and we believe this will continue to impact these students' achievement and success for many years to come. Our students have excelled in Science Olympiad, Battle of the Books, Poetry Out Loud and club activities at both the regional and state levels. Students in our high schools continue to

earn multiple college credits through Career and College Promise courses, and many are being successful in career internships and apprenticeships. Students in Wilkes County continue to excel in performing arts and on the athletic fields. Athletic participation on the junior varsity and varsity level increased by over one hundred students in 2017-2018 and sixty-four of our varsity teams qualified for the NCHSAA scholar-athlete award. A total of 668 student-athletes qualified for this award individually, which means they had to maintain a 3.5 weighted GPA. Wilkes County Schools had 216 All-Conference athletes in 2017-2018, eleven conference “Coaches of the Year,” nine individuals who qualified for all-region recognition and three to qualify for all-state.

In closing, we are proud of the accomplishments of our students and staff, and we will always look for ways to make our system even better. Our hope is that you too are proud of our system and pleased with the educational experience that your children are having on a daily basis.

Thank you

D. Mark Byrd
Superintendent
Wilkes County Schools