



October 28, 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian,

One of the benefits North Carolina public schools offer parents is transparency. Public school accountability is a standard practice for North Carolina going back to the early 1990s, and the North Carolina School Report Cards provide parents with information on such key issues as student performance, teacher experience, and school safety. Data are provided at the school, district, and state levels to enable parents to compare the performance of their student's schools with others across the district and state.

Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly provides an additional measure of school performance in the form of School Performance Grades. Beginning with the 2013–14 school year, the annual North Carolina School Report Cards display a letter grade of A, B, C, D or F for each school in the state.

The School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At A.C.E. Academy, our achievement score for the 2015–16 school year is based on how well our students' performed on: End of the Grade Assessments in Grades 3–6 Mathematics, Grades 3–6 English Language Arts/Reading, and Grade 5 Science.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that A.C.E. Academy Charter School received a School Performance Grade of an F for the 2015–16 school year. Although we are committed to improving this score, it is important to remember that just as no one single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about the performance of a school or the opportunities that our school provides. In the first two years of the school's operation, much time has been spent building school climate and culture, as well as continuously assimilating students to the school's academic goals. At A.C.E. Academy we are committed, as stated in our school mission, to “equip students from all backgrounds to succeed in the college and career of their choice by driving academic excellence, developing strong character, and instilling an entrepreneurial mindset.”

One of our top priorities for 2016–17 is to improve our School Performance Grade. There are a number of key programs we have in place to help improve student performance. These include:

- Employing Curriculum Coaches to provide support during the collaborative planning process and implementation of engaging, hands-on, and critical thinking lessons.
- Increasing reading fluency and comprehension by requiring students to read for a minimum of twenty minutes at least five nights a week.
- Utilizing assessment data to inform classroom instruction and meet the individual learning needs of students, for the placement of students in intervention services, and as a means to monitor student growth.
- Expanding parent and community involvement by hosting quarterly Parent University evenings with the focus being on pathways for student success.

We hope you will closely follow your student's academic progress and work with his or her teacher(s) to help ensure they stay on track academically. Working together as a team, we can improve not only how well our students are performing individually, but how our school is performing as a whole. There is nothing more important to administrators and teachers at A.C.E. Academy than ensuring that students are ready for the next step in their academic career. I look forward to working with you to make sure your student is on track for success. If you have any questions or concerns regarding our School Performance Grade and how we plan to improve, please don't hesitate to contact me at m.routh@aceacademycharter.org.

Sincerely,

Mollie Routh
Principal

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