

Mount Airy City Schools (MACS) continues to be one of the best school districts in North Carolina! The partnership between staff, parents, and community members continues to positively impact students and the district's success. With the recent release of the 2017-2018 accountability data, MACS saw growth, and successes as a result of the hard work of everyone. While many scores are above state average, leaders and educators are not satisfied. Each employee in the district is dedicated to supporting and growing every child, every day. Teams are in place and are working closely through school improvement teams to establish goals and steps for intervention and support in identified areas.

Notes from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction:

- Because of changes to the state's accountability measurements required under the federal Every Student Succeeds Act, school grades, growth results and graduation rates for the 2017-18 school year are not comparable to past performance during the five years the state has assessed schools using A-F letter grades and 13 years reporting the Cohort Graduation Rate. Schools are now accountable for the progress of non-English speaking students in mastering English skills and are also subject to a number of other changes affecting School Performance Grades, growth calculations and the graduation rate.
- The school grades are based primarily on overall proficiency rates on the state's standardized end-of-grade tests, and to a lesser extent, the growth students make during the year, irrespective of performance level. Eighty percent of the grade is for the percentage of tests earning a score considered grade-level proficient; 20 percent is for growth, measured by a statistical model that compares each student's predicted test score, based on past performance, against his or her actual result.

Even though testing has changed greatly over recent years, MACS consistently meets students at their point of need and maximizes their potential and achievement establishing high expectations for all. These efforts are not always indicated on reports but continue to be what is best for students.

As a district, while mathematics is an area of strength, reading has been identified as an area in need of support. MACS proudly serves Mount Airy and our community is ever-changing, which requires additional support for English Language Learners and students of poverty.

District Successes Include:

- 100% of schools met or exceeded growth in mathematics
- 100% graduation rate for all Career and Technical Education (CTE) concentrators
- 93% of students achieved technical skill attainment on CTE exams
- 88% graduation rate (based on previous years' calculation, Mount Airy High School would have had a 91% graduation rate)
- With 77.3% proficiency on ACT/WorkKeys assessment, Mount Airy High School ranked in the top two in the region
- 88% of graduates went to a 2 or 4 year college
- 2018 graduating class of 108 students earned 1.3 million dollars in scholarships

Good News to Highlight from the State Accountability Report:

Tharrington Primary School (no state accountability testing due to K-2 grade levels)

- Met Growth

Jones Intermediate School

- Met growth 82.2% growth score

Mount Airy Middle School

- 6th grade mathematics and reading ranked 12th in the state
- 6th grade mathematics 6th in state
- 6th grade reading is 25th in the state
- 7th grade reading experienced an 8.7% increase landing at 67.6% proficient
- 100% of 8th grade students taking Math 1 and English 1 were proficient
- 8th Grade English I students performed 14.6% above the state average

Mount Airy High School

- Grade B School growth 87.6% - exceeded 3 standard deviations above
- Exceeded growth
- Highest ranked traditional high school in the region based on school performance grade composites
- Ranked 7th in the state for proficiency in mathematics

The Importance of Growth

Proficiency is not the only measure of how well students are learning or how well teachers are teaching. Achieving high growth means educators are accomplishing the goal for personalizing the educational experience for each child - whether they are two years above grade level or two years below. MACS' continues their commitment to every child, every day.

More than a Test Score

Fundamental to the district's success is that students are more than a test score. MACS uses data to reflect upon strategies, identify areas of improvement, and celebrate accomplishments. However, the district believes strongly that test scores are only a small part of the equation for each child's success. Mount Airy City Schools will continue to strive to engage students and cultivate their talents, strengths, and interests.