



September 15, 2016

Dear Parents,

North Carolina law mandates that all public schools, including public charter schools, now receive a yearly report card so that parents and guardians can quickly compare school academic performance. The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (DPI) has released A-F letter grades for each school based on last year's End-of-Grade tests. DPI also has released information related to individual academic improvement.

Nearly all schools that serve at-risk, high poverty students, such as Healthy Start Academy, a Title I school, receive lower grades, according to state officials. Why? Currently, only 20 percent of the performance grade score is based on how much the students' academic growth improves over the previous year. That means 80 percent of the school report card grade is based on whether all students perform at the optimum grade level on the one-time standardized End-of-Grade tests.

Our students **met growth**, which means **our students grew at least a year academically**. Proficiency is our main objective here – we focus on every child no matter how far behind the student may be when they first come to us. Our 2015-2016 North Carolina School Report Card data show our Academic End-of-Grade test performance score was 38, which is an F.

We have taken several steps to improve schoolwide performance for 2016-2017. We have added:

- a **new math curriculum** that revises units every year according to any changes in the state test;
- **new testing tools that allow us to react quickly** when a student isn't understanding a skill that may be on the End-of-Grade test;
- updated **technology**, which should really help with the skill training, especially in our Middle School where every student has a laptop.

Parents also can help by having students read at home. Our internal testing shows us that we have to build up the stamina when students read long passages or do math word problems. They often know the material, according to the reports, but they don't perform well on long word-heavy passages.

If you have any questions, please feel free to discuss your student's progress with us. We are eager to serve every student at Healthy Start Academy.

Sincerely yours,

Anthony Chalmers, EdD  
Principal