

To: Parents, Guardians, & Stakeholders

From: CIS Academy (Billy Haggans, Principal)

Re: School Performance Grades/School Report Card

Date: December 1, 2015

Dear Parents, Guardians, and Stakeholders,

There have been several changes within education in recent years. The State of North Carolina, along with many other states, made the decision to adopt the Common Core Standards Initiative. This initiative seeks to establish consistent educational standards across the states as well as ensure that students graduating from high school are prepared to enter credit-bearing courses at two- or four-year college programs or to enter the workforce. The Common Core focuses on developing the critical-thinking, problem-solving, and analytical skills students will need to be successful. As a result, the State of North Carolina has developed new and rigorous assessments based on what every student should know and be able to do in math and English/Language Arts from kindergarten through 12th grade.

This year, for the first time, schools will receive a performance grade, letter A, B, C, D, or F, in math and English/Language Arts. Also, schools will receive an **overall performance grade** determined by using the following formula: 80% school achievement and 20% based on academic growth. These grades, along with other important information about your child's school, will be included in CIS Academy's 2014-2015 School Report Card scheduled to be released December 1, 2015.

CIS Academy's school population consists of students from all walks of life and specific needs. Our mission is to surround students with a community of support, empowering them to stay in school and achieve in life. My staff is dedicated, motivated, and passionate to provide the quality of education that each child deserves. CIS Academy has met and exceeded its growth expectations consistently. The academy exceeded its growth expectations for the 2014-2015 school year which means our students are making significant progress. Many of our students are non-proficient in reading and math when they enroll at CIS Academy; as a result the school's overall achievement score is low at 37. The School Performance Grade formula uses 80% of the school's achievement score and only 20% of the school's academic growth to determine the overall performance grade. This formula will give CIS Academy an overall performance score of 48 which translates to a performance grade of "D". According to research, which I support, a true picture of a school's progress is academic growth not student proficiency. The reality is, many students will not become proficient overnight, but we can grow them to proficiency over time. This has been and will continue to be our goal at CIS Academy!!!

Sincerely,

Billy Haggans, Principal