



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Columbus County Schools Make Remarkable Gains in Academic Achievement, Growth, and Graduation Rate for 2024-25 School Year.

Columbus County Schools is celebrating significant improvement across the district in the 2024-25 school year, marking a milestone in student achievement, school performance, and graduation success.

Districtwide Academic Success

Columbus County Schools recorded a notable 2.5 point increase in K-8 reading proficiency and a remarkable 9.7 point combined improvement in high school math proficiency on state assessments. The district's four-year graduation rate surged by more than three points, rising from 85.7% in 2024 to an impressive 88.5% this year, reflecting the dedication of students, teachers, and staff. Additionally, Columbus County Schools' graduates continue to lead the state and the nation in post-high school planning and success, with greater than 80% FAFSA completion two years running.

School Performance Growth

A majority of schools within the district made substantial school performance progress this past year. In total, 58.3% of schools received a school performance grade of C or better this past year, up sharply from just 41.6% in 2024. Five schools—Columbus Career and College Academy, Old Dock Elementary, Chadbourn Elementary, Hallsboro Artesia Elementary, and West Columbus High School—each improved their school performance grade, while Old Dock Elementary also

exceeded annual growth expectations. Ten out of the district’s twelve schools made or exceeded annual growth this past year, an increase from 41.6% to 83.3% in one year.

Notably, Columbus Career and College Academy advanced from a C to a B, gaining 13 points, while Old Dock Elementary jumped from a C to a B, improving by 10 points. West Columbus High School and the elementary schools at Chadbourn and Hallsboro Artesia also saw their grades rise, demonstrating a commitment to school improvement and student achievement.

Exiting District Low-Performing Status

For the first time since before the pandemic, the district has officially exited low-performing status. Over half of Columbus County schools made or exceeded expected growth and achieved a C or higher in their performance grade, surpassing the 50% threshold required for the district to exit low-performing status.

Recognizing Staff and Student Dedication

“These outstanding results are the product of hard work, dedication, and collaboration across our schools,” said Eddie Beck, the Superintendent of Columbus County Schools. “The progress highlights the commitment of teachers, staff, students, and families to academic excellence and ongoing improvement.”

Looking Ahead

Columbus County Schools remains committed to building on these achievements and ensuring every student is equipped for success. The district will continue to focus on academic growth, innovation, and partnership to sustain and exceed these results in coming years.

School Performance Data Summary Table

School	2024 NCDPI School Performance Grade		2025 NCDPI School Performance Grade		Improvement?
Acme Delco Elementary	D 45	Did Not Meet Growth	D 51	Met Growth	6pts Met Growth
Columbus Career and College	C 67	Did Not Meet	B 80	Met Growth	13pts Met Growth

Academy		Growth			Improved School Letter Grade
Chadbourn Elementary	D 54	Met Growth	C 55	Met Growth	1pt Met Growth Improved School Letter Grade
Hallsboro Artesia Elementary	D 54	Met Growth	C 56	Met Growth	2pts Met Growth Improved School Letter Grade
East Columbus Junior Senior High	D 45	Did Not Meet Growth	D 44	Did Not Meet Growth	
Nakina Middle	C 62	Met Growth	C 60	Met Growth	
Old Dock Elementary	C 64	Met Growth	B 74	Exceeded Growth	10pts Exceeded Growth Improved School Letter Grade
South Columbus High	C 58	Did not Meet Growth	C 56	Did not Meet Growth	-2pts Did Not Make Growth
Tabor City School	D 44	Did not Meet Growth	D 46	Met Growth	2pts Met Growth
West Columbus High	D 52	Did not Meet Growth	C 55	Met Growth	4pts Met Growth Improved School Letter Grade
West Columbus School	D 40	Did not Meet Growth	D 46	Met Growth	6pts Met Growth
Williams Township School	C 56	Met Growth	D 52	Met Growth	-4pts Met Growth

For additional information, please contact Kelly Jones, Columbus County Schools' Public Information Officer, at kjones@columbus.k12.nc.us.