



# ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT

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## By The Numbers

To achieve excellence, we first have to define what it means. Data from standardized testing is one way we can measure student success. But it doesn't tell the whole story. Below are some of the most common benchmarks to measure student achievement.

### Annual Accountability Report Highlights

North Carolina students continue to see gains in most grades and subjects, according to the 2023-24 state test results.

- Approximately 72.5% of schools met or exceeded growth in 2023-24 (vs 72.3% in 2022-23 and up from 69.6% in 2021-22).
- Four-year cohort graduation rate 86.9% (increase from 86.5% in 2022-23).
- Reading: Slight increases in most reading testing areas, but declines in fourth and seventh grade reading.
- Math: Increase in student performance in grades 3-8, plus NC Math I.

### National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP)

North Carolina students are ahead of the nation in eighth grade math and tracking with their peers in other tested subjects.

- The 2024 data shows that there has been no significant change in North Carolina students' scale scores in any area since 2022 and three of the four tested areas remain below pre-pandemic levels.

### Quick Facts

- 44,000 elementary educators were trained in the Science of Reading from 2021-2024 – and North Carolina students are outperforming their peers on a national level in grades 1-3 on the DIBELS 8 (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills) assessment, which measures foundational literacy skills.
- North Carolina high school students in 2023-24 participated and performed in college-level Advanced Placement (AP) courses at record-setting levels – reaching the highest participation and final scores in the 10-year partnership between NCDPI and the College Board, which administers the AP program and exams.
- North Carolina's CTE programs had a record-breaking year in 2023-2024. Students earned more than 358,000 individual credentials, the highest credential attainment we've seen since NCDPI started tracking 14 years ago.
- In 2023-24, 78,811 public high school students were dually enrolled in at least one college course through Career and College Promise, which gives students the opportunity to earn college credits while in high school, and 36% of all 2023-24 graduates had earned credits through the program.