



DURHAM
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA) **Based on Parents' Bill of Rights - SB 49; Session Law 2023-106**

Durham Public Schools Aims to grant parents and guardians of our students access to student achievement-related information via the district's Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA). To acquire paper copies of this document and its contents, please make a request at your child's respective school.

<p>How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?</p>	<p>The following are the relevant State and local requirements for a child to be promoted to the next grade level. Relevant part of this link is found in Part 1A (pp. 15-28) regarding retention, promotion, alternatives to show reading proficiency, etc.: Grade Level Promotion</p> <p>Information about the Durham Public School Board of Education's promotion and retention procedures is available in Board Policy 3420. Information about the Board's graduation requirements is available in Board Policy 3460.</p> <p>Additional relevant information for middle and high school students may be obtained from the DPS Middle School or High School Program Planning Guides. Families may also consult the 2024 - 2025 Family Guide to Equitable Course Selection (Secondary) - English Español for more information on course selection.</p>
<p>What is my child learning at school? How can a parent review these materials?</p>	<p>In North Carolina, all schools use the same Standard Course of Study, determined by the State Board of Education. These standards are the knowledge and skills students should understand by the end of each grade/course.</p> <p>The standards can be found on the NCDPI Office of Academic Standards website. There are standards for:</p>



- Arts Education,
- Career Technical Education,
- Computer Science,
- English Language Arts,
- English Language Development,
- Student Success Standards,
- Healthful Living,
- Information and Technology,
- Mathematics,
- Science,
- Social Studies, and
- World Language.

Local districts, schools and teachers determine how to teach these standards, including curriculum, supplementary materials, books, etc.

Curriculum

The following links provide information related to curriculum in the Durham Public School System: <https://www.dpsnc.net/domain/1790>

Instructional Materials

Contact your school principal to request to inspect or purchase textbooks and other instructional materials on this site in the coming days.

In some cases, principals may be able to provide parents with paper or electronic copies of



certain supplemental instructional materials to inspect at home. In other cases (as with most copyrighted materials), materials will be made available for in-person inspection only. As a general matter, requests to inspect school library materials will be fulfilled by informing parents of hours during which they may browse the library collection. Each school's library catalog is publicly available online at destiny.dpsnc.net.

Additional information pertaining to the inspection of instructional materials can be located at:

- [Policy 3200 Selection of Instructional Materials](#)

Literacy Intervention Plan

Parents and guardians may view Durham Public School System's 2023-24 Literacy Intervention Plan using the following links:

- [LIP - Core](#)
- [LIP - Intervention](#)
- [LIP - Reading Camp](#)

If a student has an individual Intervention Plan, parents and guardians are notified and provided a copy of the plan by the school. If a parent or guardian does not have a copy of their child's Intervention Plan, a request can be made to the school.

Career and Technical Education (CTE)

The Durham Public School System also offers courses in the area of Career and Technical Education (CTE). These courses allow students to explore careers and earn credentials. CTE Career Clusters, Pathways, Course Information, Credentials, and Course Standards may be found at this link:

- [Course Management System](#)



	<p>To learn more about the DPS CTE Program visit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DPS CTE
<p>How will a parent learn about my child's progress in school or with a class?</p>	<p>The Durham Public School System shares progress of students through a variety of ways, including quarterly report cards, progress reports, and assignment/test feedback. Feedback on conduct is also included.</p> <p>Information regarding assessments and evaluation of student progress in the Durham Public Schools can be located at the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• K-12 Assessments• Durham Public Schools Board of Education Policy Code 3400: Evaluation of Student Progress <p>Local Assessments:</p> <p>Report cards reflecting grades and attendance are issued every quarter. Review the school calendar for the dates when each quarter ends. More information can be found on the DPS Report Card webpage.</p> <p>Parents can access information about attendance, grades, and testing by visiting the PowerSchool/Homebase parent portal and entering their login credentials. Parents may access information about how to create or change their PowerSchool login credentials here. Questions related to parents' PowerSchool access not addressed at this link may be directed to the school data manager.</p> <p>State Assessments:</p> <p>Individual Student Reports for end-of-grade/course tests and other state assessments (English language proficiency assessment) are accessible in the parent portal of the NC-</p>



	<p>SIS (PowerSchool).</p> <p>In NC, all students take end-of-grade assessments for reading and math in grades 3-8. Students take end-of-grade science assessments in grades 5 and 8. In high school, students take end-of-course assessments in English II, Biology, NC Math 1, and NC Math 3.</p> <p>Students in Grade 10 take the Pre-ACT. Students in grade 11 take the ACT. Students who are CTE Concentrators in Grade 12 take ACT WorkKeys. Those results are shared by ACT.</p> <p>An Individual Reading Plan (IRP) shall be developed for any student in kindergarten through third grade demonstrating difficulty with reading. An IRP will have specific strategies/ideas that can be done at home.</p> <p>North Carolina's Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) selected mCLASS DIBELS[®] 8th Edition as the state's K-3 Literacy Assessment. mCLASS is an integrated literacy system based on the Science of Reading. mCLASS has been revised and upgraded from the assessment NC districts have used in the past, based on the latest research and the Science of Reading. It is a valid and reliable assessment, supporting universal literacy screening, screening for risk of dyslexia, and progress monitoring. mClass results are included with the report card three times per year. The intervals align with the during the first, second and fourth marking periods.</p>
<p>What are the qualifications of my child's teachers?</p>	<p>Parents can look up your child's teacher licensure status in the NCDPI Online Licensure System.</p>



What are the requirements for school enrollment? What are the immunizations needed or recommended for children?

The requirements on enrollment in and eligibility to attend a Durham County Public School System school can be located at:

- [Policy 4100 : Requirements for School Enrollment](#)

Parents and guardians can enroll students at the following link:

- [DPS Enrollment Guide](#)

The following are statutory school entry requirements, this includes required immunizations:

- Admission requirements: [GS 115C-364.pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](#)
- Immunization records: [GS 130A-155.pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](#)
- Immunization requirements: [GS 130A-152.pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](#) (*this law was amended but is not reflected on the current GA page; see [SL2023-134.pdf \(ncleg.gov\)](#), Section 5.8(e) on page 64”)

Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS).

NCDHHS [Immunizations](#) Resource

- Recommended Immunization Schedules
 - [Pre-Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements](#) -4 years or older (in child care only)
 - [Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements](#)
 - [Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements](#)
 - [Twelfth Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements](#)

How can a parent help their child learn and make progress?

Engaging with your child about school and what they are learning is pivotal to their learning process.



- [Ask questions about your child's school day.](#)
- Inquire about topics and assignments they are learning.
 - Is there any assignment or topic they are really interested in or enjoying?
 - Is there any work or topic that they are finding hard or confusing?
- Connect with teachers to understand your child's progress.
- Ask the teachers how you can help your child learn.
- Attend different events at your child's school to stay connected and learn how to support them.
- Visit the [Durham County Library](#) branch closest to you to find materials related to your child's school work and for independent reading.
- Establish a designated and intentional area in the home, if possible, for homework, studying, etc.
- As a parent, model reading.
- Engage with your child about their progress and their effort.
- Be an active participant in your child's education.
- Keep as many books of varying reading levels as you can in the home.
- Help your child connect to free online homework help with [Brainfuse Live Homework Help](#) through Durham County Library
 - Live tutors available Monday - Friday 2:00PM - 11:00PM EST (except holidays).
- Communicate and connect often with your child's teacher(s) and school (email, phone call, newsletter, website)
 - Ask about current topics and assignments to understand your child's learning and academic progress.
 - Ask how you can help your child with specific class work.
 - Ask if there are any assignments or topics that your child is enjoying or may need support in to succeed.



- Use the school website and weekly phone calls to stay informed of school events.
- Attend parent, academic, and/or recreational events at your child's school to stay connected and learn how to support them when possible.

Parent Guides for Academic Standards:

The following grade level guides contain information to support parents and caregivers with understanding the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. The purpose of these guides is to inform parents about the standards, as well as provide useful strategies to incorporate at home.

- [ELA](#) Parent Guides
- [ELD](#) Parent Guide
- Math Parent Guides: [K-5](#), [6-8](#)
- Social Studies Parent Guides: [K-8](#), [9-12](#)
- Science Parent Guide (coming soon)

K-12 Literacy at Home

[Literacy at Home.pdf](#)

[Literacy at Home_Spanish.pdf](#)

Reading and Literacy Support:

This following site provides resources for families to practice and reinforce important literacy skills with their children who are being assessed with mCLASS reading assessments: [Amplify Parent Resources](#).



	<p>Home activities, printables, and games to support reading and literacy are also available at North Carolina's Digital Children's Reading Initiative (DCRI). These activities include the following topics, Pre-K-Grade 5:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">(1) Phonemic awareness(2) Phonics(3) Vocabulary(4) Fluency(5) Comprehension(6) Oral language <p>DCRI Printables for Families</p>
<p>How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?</p>	<p>The Durham Public School System embeds Portrait of a Graduate skills in the classroom and school setting. These durable skills were developed by NCDPI and will support a child's understanding of citizenship, social skills and respect for others.</p>
<p>How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?</p>	<p>Grade level specific resources, including developmentally appropriate milestones can be found in the following resource repositories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NC Portrait of a Graduate - Durable Skills;• DPS Character Education; and• Bullying Prevention.
<p>How can a parent strengthen communication with the school/teacher?</p>	<p>DPS schools and the district use the SchoolMessenger notification service to send important information to families through phone calls, email, and text messages.</p> <p>To ensure DPS and your student's school can reach as many families as possible during emergencies, all families are automatically opted in to receive text messages from</p>



SchoolMessenger.

- General school news and updates are shared by email and text message.
- Urgent information is shared by a phone call.

For more information, please visit ['School Communication'](#) on the DPS website.

Information regarding the appropriate use of technology platforms can be located at the following:

- [DPS Board Policy Technology Responsible Use \(4312/3225/7320\)](#)

Parents can access information about attendance, grades, and testing by visiting the [PowerSchool/Homebase parent portal](#) and entering their login credentials. Parents may access information about how to create or change their PowerSchool login credentials [here](#). Questions related to parents' PowerSchool access not addressed at this link may be directed to the school data manager.

The Durham Public School System has developed a policy that encourages effective communication between schools and parents. This policy can be located at:

- [Parental Involvement Policy \(1310/4002\)](#)
- [Title I Parent and Family Engagement](#)

The following are NCDPI developed parent guides that provide suggestions for building strong relationships with your child's teacher and supporting communication between home and school.

[Building Strong Relationships with Your Child's Teacher](#) (NC Rethink Education Program)



	<p>How You Can Use Questions to Support Your Child's Learning (NC Rethink Education Program)</p> <p>Additional general parent guides and parent resource webinar recordings can be found at the following website.</p>
<p>What services are available for parents and their children?</p>	<p>Family Literacy Services: Literacy at Home: Digital Children's Reading Initiative developed by NCDPI provides literacy activities at each grade level, pre-kindergarten through fifth grade.</p> <p>Interpretation Services: The Multilingual Resource Center is a bridge between schools and families. The Multilingual Resource Center is responsible for interpretation and translation services, family support and engagement, and community outreach. For more information, visit www.dpsnc.net/mrc, call (919) 560-2510 or email Multilingual.ResourceCenter@dpsnc.net."</p> <p>Mentoring: Mentoring services are available at select schools. Parents can contact their child's school to inquire about these services.</p> <p>Tutoring: Tutoring services are available at select schools. Parents can contact their child's school to inquire about these services.</p> <p>All DPS students can connect to free online homework help with Brainfuse Live Homework Help through Durham County Library</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Live tutors available Monday - Friday 2:00PM - 11:00PM EST (except holidays).• Students can log in using their Bull City Slam Login.



Other Academic Enrichment Programs:

Additional academic enrichment opportunities are available at all schools in the Durham Public School System. Parents can contact their child’s school to inquire about these services.

College Planning:

Counselors are available in all DPS high schools to offer students the opportunity to plan their college path.

- [Career Preparation Programs](#)
- [College and Career Ready Graduate \(CCRG\)](#)

Academic Advisement:

The Durham Public School System provides assistance and support to students in three main areas: Academic, Career, and Personal/Social.

- [Career Preparation Programs](#)
- [College and Career Ready Graduate \(CCRG\)](#)

Student Counseling Services:

- [DPS Counseling and Student Support Services](#)

What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?

The Durham County Public School System provides opportunities for parental engagement in their child’s education.

- [Parental Involvement Policy \(1310/4002\)](#)

Family and Community Engagement is a part of our [Strategic Plan](#).



	<p>Title I Parent and Family Engagement Contact your child's school to learn more about the current parent and family engagement opportunities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Title I Parent and Family Engagement
<p>What are the rigorous academic programs available to my child? How can I learn more about them?</p>	<p>The Durham Public School System offers a variety of options for students to pursue their interests, skills at their academic level.</p> <p>Career and Technical Education (CTE): NC has made a significant investment in developing students and programs to meet the needs of the future workforce. Through Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs, Public Schools offer opportunities for students to develop career awareness in 5th grade, explore careers in grades 6-8, and experience leadership, career development, and career-aligned content in grades 9-12.</p> <p>In the Durham Public School System, students are able to explore these career pathways from grades 6-8:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DPS CTE• Middle School Program Planning Guide <p>In the Durham Public School System, students are able to experience leadership, career development, and career-aligned content from grades 9-12:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DPS CTE• High School Program Planning Guide <p>For more information on CTE in NC, and to learn about Career Clusters, Pathways, and Course Information, Standards, and applicable Credentials please visit: Course Management System.</p>



In our district, there are the following programs available that are more rigorous and challenging than the standard content for students:

Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted (AIG):

In NC, school districts must identify and serve academically or intellectually gifted (AIG) K-12 students. These are students who are performing, or have the potential of performing, at high levels of accomplishment in intellectual and/or specific academic areas, such as reading and/or math when compared with other students of their age, or in their grade level, experience, or environment.

North Carolina legislation for AIG ensures all local districts write a local plan following state legislation and policy every three years. The [DPS Local AIG Plan](#) outlines specific opportunities for differentiated, rigorous instruction and accelerated programs.

The Office of Advanced Academics has developed the [DPS Academically or Intellectually Gifted](#) website to help teachers and families better understand the AIG program, including the identification process, services K-12, and additional areas of interest for advanced learners.

In the Durham Public School System, students identified as AIG will receive one of more of the following services:

- Differentiated curriculum and instruction with flexible student groups;
- Accelerated opportunities;
- Enrichment experiences, which may be during the school day or beyond, and may be within the regular calendar year or may include summer opportunities; and



- Other opportunities for extension of content standard.

Services for AIG students may be provided by AIG personnel or within the regular classroom by teachers trained to meet the needs of gifted students.

Honors-Level Courses:

In the Durham Public School System, students have access to a variety of honors level courses in high school. These courses are available in the [High School Program Planning Guide](#).

Honors level courses typically have a faster pace than standard level courses. They offer additional rigor, complexity and creativity than standard level courses.

Career and College Promise (CCP):

The Durham Public School System offers dual enrollment opportunities through the CCP program. If your high school student qualifies, students may earn high school credit by completing community college coursework.

CCP courses may be taken in the College Transfer or Career and Technical Education pathway. These courses count for both high school and college credit. Tuition is free for families. For additional information please visit:

- [College Credit Overview](#)
- Additional information is available on the [NCDPI CCP website](#).

Early Colleges & Career Academies:

Early colleges work in partnership with a community college or university to serve students in grades 9 -12, providing access for students to earn college credits while completing their



high school education. Students may graduate with both a high school diploma and a significant number of college credits or an Associate's Degree. Additionally, smaller class size provides opportunities for greater student personalization, thus enhancing the learning experience for students.

In DPS, three early colleges partner with Durham Tech Community College and one early college partners with North Carolina Central University.

- [Early Colleges](#)

Advanced Placement (AP) Courses:

Advanced Placement (AP) is a program developed by the College Board to offer college-level curricula and examinations to high school students.

In North Carolina, 40 Advanced Placement courses are offered in public high schools. The Durham Public School System offers AP courses at each high school.

Several AP courses satisfy graduation requirements for NC students as outlined in [State Board policy](#).

AP exams are free for all NC public high school students enrolled in an AP course.

Colleges and universities may likely offer college credit for these courses if your child scores a 3 or above on the exam. All of the colleges in the UNC System offer credit.

More information is available on the [NCDPI AP website](#) and the [DPS Academically or Intellectually Gifted](#) website.



International Baccalaureate Programs/Cambridge International Education programs:

The International Baccalaureate Programme is offered at several magnet schools in grades K-12. To find IB magnet options based on your home address and access school websites visit [School Locator](#).

The International Baccalaureate (IB) pathway is an internationally standardized program of study offered in about 160 countries and has garnered worldwide recognition for its rigor and high academic standards. IB students become increasingly knowledgeable, interested in international understandings, and actively work to effect positive change. The IB Organization offers three programs: the Primary Years Programme (grades K-5), the Middle Years Programme (grades 6-10), and the Diploma Programme (grades 11-12). Many colleges and universities give special admissions consideration to students who take IB classes and earn an IB Diploma.

Several IB and CIE courses satisfy graduation requirements for NC students as outlined in [State Board policy](#).

IB and CIE exams are free for NC public high school students enrolled in these courses.

Colleges and universities may likely offer college credit for these courses if your child scores a high level. All of the colleges in the UNC System offer college credit if there is a 4 or higher on IB exams or an “E” on a CIE exam.

More information is available on the [NCDPI Advanced Coursework website](#).

eLearning Opportunities



Durham Public Schools partners with North Carolina Virtual (NCV), EdOptions Academy, and North Carolina School of Science and Mathematics (NCSSM) to offer an alternative, online setting for first-time credit courses. Each platform offers a variety of standard, honors, and AP courses to provide students with equitable access to courses offered in DPS, no matter their school assignment.

Please work with your student's counselor to determine if an eLearning course is the right fit. To learn more about each platform and available courses, visit the [Students & Families eLearning website](#).

Credit by Demonstrated Mastery (CDM):

The Durham Public School System offers opportunities for students to earn credit for a high school course without enrolling in the course. All high school courses, with a few exceptions as noted by the state, are available for students to try to CDM. There are two phases of assessments that a student must go through to earn credit for the course.

For more information visit:

- [DPS Credit by Demonstrated Mastery](#)

Governor's School: Each summer, NC Governor's School offers a unique opportunity for high-achieving rising juniors and seniors to learn with their peers from across the state in a 4-week residential program at two college campus sites.

For more information on eligibility and the application process, contact your school counselor or visit the Governor's School website, www.ncgovschool.org.

What school choices are available for my child?

Students in public school districts are assigned to certain schools based on a local assignment plan approved by Local Board of Education



The Durham Public School System offers these additional school choice options for students/families:

- [Office of Student Assignment](#)

DPS Magnet & Curriculum Enhancement Programs

Additional Opportunities are available in the DPS Magnet Office:

[DPS Magnet Office](#)

Durham County magnet schools create well-rounded students by challenging them with programs tailored to their strengths and exposing them to new experiences. Each theme incorporates the standard core curriculum with a specialized instructional delivery model. These innovative and pioneering programs challenge students to think creatively and analytically to solve problems, while a diverse student body can inspire innovation by allowing students to see things from different perspectives. Durham County application/magnet schools and CTE pathways provide students with the tools they need to see things differently.

Check out more information about [Application Schools, Magnet Programs and CTE Pathways](#) on our website.

There are other options for families to choose for their education:

Charter Schools

Charter schools are public schools of choice that are authorized by the State Board of Education and operated by independent non-profit boards of directors. State and local tax



dollars are the primary funding sources for charter schools, which have open enrollment and cannot discriminate in admissions, associate with any religion or religious group, or charge-tuition. Charter schools operate with freedom from many of the regulations that govern district schools, but charter schools are held accountable through the State assessment and accountability system.

If you are interested in NC charter schools, visit [NC charter school](#) for information, resources, and contacts.

Nonpublic Education and Scholarship Grants

Nonpublic education is overseen by the [NC Department of Administration](#).

For a list of private schools, visit this [NC Private Schools](#).

For information on how to start a homeschool visit:

[Homeschool Information](#)

Scholarship grant programs/voucher information is available via the [NC State Education Assistance Authority](#).

What rights do students with disabilities have based on the law?

For students suspected of or identified with a disability by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the following links provide important information regarding the procedural safeguards available to ensure a free, appropriate, public education.

[Parent Rights Handbook](#)

[Parent Rights Handbook \(Spanish\)](#)

[IDEA Dispute Resolution](#)



[Special Education Surrogate Parents](#)
[Project Child Find](#)

Parents of children aged two years old or younger who may be in need of special education services should contact the Children's Development Services Agency at 919-560-5600.

Parents of children aged three or older who are not yet eligible to enter kindergarten should call the DPS Preschool Child Find Office at 919-560-3933 or email Leslie Greene at leslie_greene@dpnc.net.

Parents of children in kindergarten through 12th grade should contact their child's school and ask to speak with either the building administrator or Exceptional Children's Facilitator.

Any information, questions, or concerns can also be addressed by the DPS Exceptional Children's Office by calling 919-560-3774.

DPS Exceptional Children's Department Contacts:

EC Executive Director: Dr. Kristin M. Bell (kristin_bell@dpsnc.net)

Preschool EC Director: Tina Clayton (tina_clayton@dpsnc.net)

Elementary EC Director: Wendy Vavrousek (wendy_vavrousek@dpsnc.net)

Middle/High EC Director: Stacey Burns (stacey_burns@dpsnc.net)

Special Programs/Behavior Support EC Director: Krista Saunders
(krista_saunders@dpsnc.net)

What is the contact information for the schools and district office?

Parents and guardians can contact the Durham Public School System at (919) 560-2000 or visit the DPS website.



	<p>Durham Public School System - Contact Information Listed by School</p>
<p>What are some resources to support my child's health and wellbeing? What immunizations are required and when should they be scheduled?</p>	<p>The Durham Public School System offers the following information and resources to support your child's health and wellbeing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Student Wellness Policy• Student Health Requirements• Health and Wellness Supports for Students and Families <p>Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immunizations• Recommended Immunization Schedules<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Pre-Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements -4 years or older (<i>in child care only</i>)○ Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements○ Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements○ Twelfth Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements• Health Assessment• Health Assessment and Immunization Compliance Reporting