

School Spending Data Explorer – Glossary of Terms

School Performance and Student Characteristics Indicators

School Achievement Score: The percent of students scoring at or above proficient (a Level 3 or higher) on required state assessments – including End-of-Grade tests and End-of-Course tests – and the percent of English Learners who met the State’s progress standards on the language proficiency test. At the high school level, school achievement scores also include graduation rates, the percent of 12th grade students who receive credit for NC Math 3, and the percentage of 12th grade students who meet the benchmarks on the ACT (a composite score of 19 or higher) or ACT WorkKeys (a Silver certificate or higher).

School Growth Index: School growth is the amount of academic progress that students make over the course of a grade or class. School growth is measured by EVAAS, a statistical tool North Carolina uses to measure academic progress.

The school growth index measures student academic progress on a scale of -10 to 10 (it is possible to achieve values greater than 10.0 or below -10.0 but those values are transformed to 10.0 and -10.0 for use in the school accountability model). Scores below -2.0 indicate that, on average, students in the school did not meet growth expectations; scores between -2.0 and 2.0 indicate that, on average, students in the school met growth expectations; and scores greater than 2.0 indicate that, on average, students in the school exceeded growth expectations.

School Growth Score: The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction converts scores on the EVAAS school growth index to a 100-point value prior to inclusion in the School Performance Grades. A higher school growth score aligns with a higher value on the school growth index and vice versa.

School Performance Score: School performance scores are calculated using a formula that weights school achievement scores at 80% and school growth scores at 20%.

Percent Economically Disadvantaged: This measure shows the percentage of students in this school who are economically disadvantaged. Students from economically disadvantaged families face additional challenges.

Sources: [NC DPI – Accountability Indicators and School Performance Grades Business Rules 2018–19](#); [NC DPI - Student Growth](#); [NC DPI – North Carolina School Report Cards](#)

School Spending Definitions

Total PPE: The amount of funding spent per student from all revenue sources combined: local, state, and federal.

Federal PPE: The amount of spending per student provided by the United States Department of Education.

State PPE: The amount of spending per student provided by the State of North Carolina.

Local PPE: The amount of spending per student provided by the public school unit or school district.

COVID Funding PPE: The amount of spending per student provided by federal COVID relief funding. These funds are a subset of Federal PPE. COVID funds are available at the district level, but not the school level.

Urban–Rural Classification (assigned by the U.S. Department of Education)

City: Territory inside an urbanized area and inside a principal city.

Suburb: Territory outside a principal city but inside an urbanized area.

Town: Territory outside an urbanized area but inside an urban cluster.

Rural: Census-defined rural territory.

Sources: [NC DPI - Educational Directory and Demographical Information Exchange](#)

School Program Type

Cooperative Innovative High School: A State Board of Education approved high school program that offers accelerated learning opportunities, or a program that targets students who are at risk of dropping out of high school before attaining a high school diploma.

Early College: A State Board of Education approved high school program that allows students the opportunity to pursue college credit. Students are eligible to take college courses at a cooperating higher educational institution.

Magnet School: A magnet program incorporates both the curriculum of a regular program and special or thematic programs such as liberal arts, science, music, or health-business or technology-oriented programs. A portion of the student population is selected via a district-based application process.

Charter School: A public school of choice that is authorized by the State Board of Education and operated by an independent non-profit board of directors. Charter schools have open enrollment and cannot discriminate in admissions, associate with any religion or religious group, or charge-tuition.

Sources: [NC DPI - Educational Directory and Demographical Information Exchange](#); [NC DPI – Charter Schools Home Page](#)

Education Region

Education Region: North Carolina has eight education regions as defined by the State Board of Education: Northeast Region, Southeast Region, North Central Region, Sandhills Region, Piedmont-Triad Region, Southwest Region, Northwest Region, and Western Region.

Sources: [North Carolina State Board of Education – Education Districts](#)

Students with Disabilities

Percent Students with Disabilities: The percent of children with disabilities who receive special education and related services according to an Individualized Education Plan (IEP) or Service Plan.

Sources: [NC DPI – Exceptional Children: Child Count](#)

Nominal Expenditures vs. Inflation–Adjusted Expenditures

Nominal: Actual funding amounts in the selected years.

Inflation-Adjusted: Funding amounts adjusted for changes in economic conditions to reflect the purchasing power in today’s dollars.

Note: A small subset of schools have been excluded from this data set as outliers. If you are looking for a specific school and cannot find it here, please visit the [NC School Report Card](#) page for more information.