



Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA)

Based on Parents' Bill of Rights - SB 49; Session Law 2023-106

It is the objective of Ascend Leadership Academy to offer parents and guardians access to information regarding student achievement via the district's Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA). Should you wish to obtain paper copies of this document and its contents, you can make a request through your child's respective school.

1a) How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?	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 . Information about Ascend Leadership Academy's promotion and retention policies can be found here . Information about ALA's graduation requirements can be found here .
1b) What is my child learning at school? How can a parent review these materials?	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. The standards can be found on the NCDPI Office of Academic Standards website. There are standards for 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, and other resources.

	ALA determines how to teach these standards, including what curriculum, supplementary materials, books, etc. is utilized. Ascend Leadership Academy 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: NC Course Management System Access the links below to understand the curriculum at Ascend Leadership Academy as well as our policies for reviewing the curriculum: • ALA Curriculum Information • ALA Digital Guidebook • High School Program • Remote Academy Program • Remote Academy Instructional Plan • ALA Policy on Curriculum, Textbooks, Supplementary Material, and Library Materials • Process for Parent Challenges to Textbooks and Supplementary Instructional Materials
1c) How will a parent learn about my child's progress in school or with a class?	Ascend Leadership Academy shares progress of students through a variety of ways, including quarterly report cards, progress reports, and assignment/test feedback. Information regarding assessments and the evaluation of student progress at Ascend Leadership Academy is available at the following link:  25-26 ALA Employee Handbook.docx Local Assessments: Quarterly report cards detailing grades and attendance are distributed, with specific quarter-end dates outlined in the school calendar. Parents can access attendance,

	grades, and testing information through the PowerSchool/Homebase parent portal using their login credentials. For assistance with PowerSchool access, parents can contact the school data manager. State Assessments: Individual Student Reports for end-of-grade/course tests and other state assessments (English language proficiency assessment) are sent home as a hard copy and electronically. All NC 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 the 8th Grade, if a student is enrolled in Math I, they will take the Math I End-of-Course assessment. High school students take end-of-course assessments in English II, Biology, NC Math 1, and NC Math 3. Grade 10 students take the Pre-ACT, grade 11 students take the ACT, and grade 12 CTE Concentrators take ACT WorkKeys, with results shared by ACT. Parents can find assessment information regarding the schedule, grade level, and purpose on our website at NC State Testing .
1d) What are the qualifications of my child's teachers?	Parents of students have the right to know the professional qualifications of our ALA teachers. Parents can ask for certain information about their child's classroom teachers, and ALA will give this information to parents in a timely manner if they ask for it. Parents may look up your child's teacher licensure status at this website Link to the licensure website. The licensure look up webpage does not include current employment information. Parents may need additional information (i.e., middle name or license number) to identify the teacher accurately. Substitute teachers (either short or long term) may not hold a NC teaching license.

	Please contact our Human Resources office to verify an educator's licensure Status at 919-842-5411 ext.142.
1e) What are the requirements for school enrollment? What are the immunizations needed or recommended for children?	The following are the North Carolina statutory school entry requirements, this includes required immunizations: ● State Admission requirements: ○ GS_115C-364.pdf (ncleg.gov) ● ALA Admissions Policy ○ ALA Admissions Policy ● Health Requirements for Student Enrollment ○ Immunization records: GS_130A-155.pdf (ncleg.gov) ○ Immunization requirements: GS_130A-152.pdf (ncleg.gov) NC GS 130 A-152 graphic (*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") ○ Health Assessments: communicate the health concerns and information from parents and physicians for all children entering public schools for the first time in North Carolina. Health issues that affect learning are addressed. State law requires that every child entering public schools in N.C. for the first time or entering Kindergarten for the first time receive a health assessment. The NC Health Assessment is typically done when a student is preparing to enter Kindergarten. The assessment must occur within 12 months prior to entering school. The medical provider, parent or guardian must provide a completed health assessment transmittal form to the school on or before the child's first day of attendance. NC Health Assessment Form Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). NCDHHS Immunizations Resources

	- Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements - Twelfth Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements
2a) Parental actions that can... strengthen the child's academic progress, especially in the area of reading as provided in Part 1A of Article 8 of Chapter 115C of the NCGS.	Engaging with your child about school and what they are learning is pivotal to their learning process. ● Ask questions daily about your child's school day. ● Inquire about topics and assignments they are learning. ● 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. ALA Resources Community Weekly Update Messages Parent Support Resources Canvas Login PowerSchool Parent Portal Login 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. ● K - 12 Parent and Family Content Support Guides for ELA ● K - 12 Parent and Family Content Support Guides for Math ● K - 12 Parent and Family Content Support Guides for Social Studies ● K - 12 Parent and Family Content Support Guides for Science ● Parent Guide for English Language Development

	Reading and Literacy Support: 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: (1) Phonemic awareness (2) Phonics (3) Vocabulary (4) Fluency (5) Comprehension (6) Oral language Printable activities will be made available for students who do not have digital access at home and may be provided to all students as a supplement to digital resources. For paper copies, please contact (Insert contact name and contact information). DCRI Printables for Families
2b) Parental actions that can... strengthen the child’s citizenship, especially social skills and respect for others.	Ascend Leadership Academy implements the RAISE Leadership curriculum with all students as our leadership and character education program. RAISE stands for Respect, Accountability, Integrity, Service and Excellence. Middle School students participate in daily lessons related to one of these values and High School students participate weekly in an hour long session. Teachers and other school staff develop the curriculum to engulf students with knowledge related to these values. Parents can support this instruction by incorporating the values of Respect, Accountability, Integrity, Service and Excellence into family discussions. Character.org is also a great resource. Character.org has educators, researchers, business and civic leaders who care deeply about the vital role that character will play in our future. Their worldwide network empowers people of all ages to practice and model core values that shape

	our hearts, minds, and choices. Their mission is to provide global leadership, voice, and resources for developing character in families, schools, and organizations. • Character.org • NCDPI Character Education Ascend Leadership Academy 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. Grade level specific resources, including developmentally appropriate milestones can be found in the following resource repository NC Portrait of a Graduate - Durable Skills. Parents are encouraged to partner with their student services teams in their work to support academic achievement, develop interpersonal skills, strengthen mental wellness, and explore career activities after graduation. School counseling, psychological services, and social work staff encourage students to learn skills in emotional regulation to support healthy decision-making skills and emotional development.
2c) Parental actions that can... Strengthen the child's realization of high expectations and setting lifelong learning goals.	Ascend Leadership Academy embeds Portrait of a Graduate skills in the classroom and school setting. These durable skills were developed by NCDPI and support a child's realization of high expectations and setting lifelong learning goals. Grade level specific resources, including developmentally appropriate milestones can be found in the following resource repository NC Portrait of a Graduate - Durable Skills.

2d) Parental actions that can... place strong emphasis on the communication between the school and the home.

Communication with parents and families is very important to us. Our district website is the Primary way that we communicate with parents, students and the community www.ascendleadershipacadem.org. ALA maintains a website that provides information about activities and events specific to that particular school community.

Additionally, ALA uses the following platforms for communication between home/school

- Talking Points (<https://talkingpts.org/>)
- Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ascendleadershipacademy>)
- Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/ascendleadershipnc/>)
- Youtube (https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCySxy8NF42h97al-l-4OPg?view_as=subscriber)

Our Social Media Policy can be found in the Parent-Student Handbook at

[W 25-26 ALA Employee Handbook.docx](#)

Tips for Parents:

- Visit the Curriculum and Instruction website for parent/family resources.
- Stay informed of school activities by visiting school websites, registering your ParentSquare account, and reviewing newsletters and notes.
- Check PowerSchool weekly (grades 6-12) for missing assignments and current grades. (Link guides for how to gain parent access to LMS and/or SIS)
- Review progress reports and report cards with your child. Set goals with your child.
- Communicate with your child's teacher about his/her progress and upcoming events.
- Monitor homework by ensuring your child completes his/her homework and it is turned in on time.
- Talk to your child about his/her school experience. Indicate to your child that you expect school to be a positive experience.
- Encourage daily reading by providing opportunities for your child to read both fiction and non-fiction books and articles.
- Utilize digital resources to support your child's individual learning. Check school and

	teacher websites for more details. You can also access the curriculum through the Curriculum and Instruction Parent Canvas Course. 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) How You Can Use Questions to Support Your Child’s Learning (NC Rethink Education Program) Additional general parent guides and parent resource webinar recordings can be found at the following website.
3) What services are available for parents and their children?	Open House: Ascend Leadership Academy's Open House is an opportunity for prospective families to explore our campus, meet our dedicated teachers and staff, and learn about our innovative programs. Families get a firsthand look at our classrooms, discover our approach to Project-Based Learning, and hear about the extracurricular activities and leadership opportunities we offer. Meet the Teacher/Curriculum Night: JAscend Leadership Academy's Curriculum/Meet the Teacher Night is where parents and students can connect with teachers, explore classroom expectations, and gain insight into the curriculum for the school year in each of their child’s classes. This event offers a chance to learn about key projects, assignments, and the support systems in place to help students succeed. It’s a great opportunity to ask questions, build relationships, and understand how parents and teachers work together to empower students academically and personally. 1st and 3rd Quarter Exhibition Day Events: Ascend Leadership Academy's Project Based Learning (PBL) Exhibition Day is a showcase of student innovation, creativity, and critical

	thinking. During this event, students present the projects they've worked on throughout the semester, demonstrating their ability to solve real-world problems through research, collaboration, and hands-on learning. Families and community members are invited to explore these dynamic presentations, interact with students, and celebrate their hard work and achievements. Exhibition Day highlights the deep learning and practical skills our students develop through PBL, preparing them for success beyond the classroom. Parent/Teacher conferences: ALA encourages the involvement of parents in their child's education. If a parent/guardian has a concern regarding their child, they are asked to first contact the child's teacher. As a parent/guardian, they may request a conference with the teacher at any time. Arrangements should be made directly with the child's teacher. If they feel that the situation has not been handled appropriately by the teacher or if the parent still has concerns, then the parent may contact the Principal. Tutoring: NCVPS EdVantage Tutoring offers virtual statewide wraparound support to middle and high school students in NC public schools. Tutoring is available in Math, Science and ELA, and is offered via a personalized partnership with district/school leadership to best meet the needs of selected students each semester.
4) What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?	Aviator Nation Organization: Our newly formed Aviator Nation Organization is eager to help parents and families connect to enhance our community experience! The primary objective of this group is to support ALA educators in providing a school culture based around our RAISE values so as to promote student development academically, socially, and culturally. To support the varied activities and objectives of ALA, there are five committees that need YOU! These committees include Academics, Arts, Athletics, Events, and School Operations. More information will be forthcoming with opportunities to learn more about (and hopefully join!) the various committees at Open House and Curriculum Night. Please be thinking about ways your gifts and talents may be able to contribute.

	ALA Volunteerism: Volunteerism at our school is a way for you, parents and guardians, to learn more about ALA engage in a positive way with your child’s teachers, and to witness first hand the hard work and dedication that all our staff - teachers, assistants, support staff, and administrators demonstrate each and every day. It is also a way to support your student and other students by assisting with work stations or a small group, helping with clerical tasks or lunch, and/or something as simple as reading a book to the class. You do not have to be an educator to volunteer and everyone is welcome!
5. What are the rigorous academic programs available to my child? How can I learn more about them?	At Ascend Leadership Academy, we offer a variety of rigorous academic programs to challenge and engage your child. These include: Project Based Learning (PBL): Hands-on, collaborative projects that apply knowledge to real-world problems. STEM/Robotics Electives: Courses that emphasize critical thinking, innovation, and technology skills. Art and Music Electives: Creative programs that nurture artistic expression and appreciation for the arts. Differentiated Instruction: Tailored learning experiences that meet the unique needs of each student. Flexible Student Grouping: Dynamic groupings that allow students to learn at their own pace and ability level specifically in ELA and Math in middle grades. Science Olympiad: Science Olympiad & NC Science Olympiad

To learn more, visit our website, attend an open house, or schedule a meeting with our academic team.

Ascend Leadership Academy offers a variety of options for students to pursue their interests, skills at their academic level.

Career and College Promise (CCP):

Ascend Leadership Academy partners with Central Carolina Community College to offer 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.

To learn more about this program, contact Central Carolina Community College.

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 NC, 40 Advanced Placement courses are offered in public high schools. Ascend Leadership Academy offers 8 AP courses to high school students.

Several AP courses satisfy graduation requirements for NC students as outlined in State Board policy.

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. NCVPS North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) is NC’s state supplemental program and leader in online education, providing inclusive learning opportunities for students across the state. Founded in 2007, with a strong commitment to ensuring quality education for all students, regardless of location, NCVPS has over 16 years of experience serving diverse Learners. Students may enroll in NCVPS courses for a variety of reasons. Work with your school counselor if you are interested in taking an NCVPS courses. Ascend Leadership Academy offers world language and Occupational Course of study courses to High School Students through NCVPS.
6) What school choices are available for my child?	Ascend Leadership Academy is a NC Public Charter School and is a school of choice. What is a NC Charter School? Other 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. Private Schools For a list of private schools, visit this NC Private Schools. Homeschools For information on how to start a homeschool visit: Homeschool Information Nonpublic Education and Scholarship Grants Scholarship grant programs/voucher information is available via the NC State Education Assistance Authority
7) 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 ALA Exceptional Children's Services policy

	Parent Requests for EC Services Policy If your child has a disability, or you suspect that he/she may have a disability, &/or you have questions, and they attend ALA, please contact the EC Facilitator, Barbara Jenkins, at bjenkins@alaschoolsnc.org.
8) What is the contact information for the schools and district office?	Parents and guardians may contact Ascend Leadership Academy at (919) 842-5411 & they can also find a wealth of information located on our website. ALA WEBSITE
9) What are some resources to support my child's health and wellbeing? What immunizations are required and when should they be scheduled?	Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the NC Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) Immunizations Health Assessment Annual Health Assessment and Immunization Compliance Reporting - Expected Immunization Schedules - Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements - Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements - Twelfth Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements