



September 17, 2025

ALA Community,

Recently the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) released data related to grade level proficiency and student academic growth as measured by state-mandated End-of-Course/Grade exams. This data reveals a great deal about our school and the progress we are making toward becoming the best secondary school in both Lee and Harnett Counties. Below are some highlights that we have identified as significant from the data. The following page provides more specific data related to the performance of ALA students in comparison to local schools and school districts.

- ALA **achievement score** increased for the 4th consecutive year
- ALA **outperformed the state grade level proficiency percentage by 4% in 10/11 tested subject areas.**
- ALA **outperformed both Harnett and Lee County School Districts** in grade level proficiency percentage in all tested subjects and **by more than 10% in 10 of 11 tested subject areas.**
- ALA **outperformed the State of North Carolina, Harnett and Lee County schools** in overall composite EOG/EOC grade level proficiency.
- ALA **outperformed the State of North Carolina, Harnett and Lee County schools** in overall composite College and Career Readiness proficiency.

There are several areas that we want to continue to grow as a school as we want to be a school that consistently performs well on state mandated assessments. Among our primary goals is to meet or exceed growth every school year and outperform the local districts (Harnett and Lee Counties) by 10% in both grade level proficiency and college readiness as measured by EOG/EOC exams. I assure you that ALA's faculty and staff will continue to make efforts to adapt our program in order to continue to meet these goals. Naturally, this includes targeted professional development for teachers and a renewed commitment to the individual needs of all of our students. We appreciate your continued support as we seek to empower students for the 21st Century!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Smith', with a large, stylized initial 'J' and a horizontal line extending from the end.

Justin Smith, M.A., NBCT
Managing Director
Ascend Leadership Academy



ALA 24-25 School Performance Data

School proficiency data on state-mandated assessments was recently released for the 2024-25 school year. Below is a summary of Ascend Leadership Academy's performance as compared to local schools, districts and the State of North Carolina.

School Performance

Local School	Performance Score (Growth + Achievement)	Performance Grade	School Achievement Score (Grade Level Proficiency)
Ascend Leadership Academy	62	C	63.1
East Lee Middle	39	F	35.8
West Lee Middle	53	D	42.5
Western Harnett Middle	52	D	46.2
Overhills Middle	53	D	43.8
Lee County High	52	D	51.8
Southern Lee High	54	D	54.7
Western Harnett High	59	C	59.1
Overhills High	58	C	59.8

Grade Level Proficiency

Percent of students deemed proficient and at or above grade level.

Assessment	ALA % Proficient	State of NC % Proficient	Harnett County % Proficient	Lee County % Proficient
All Subjects	61.6	55.0	44.2	48.2
6th Grade EOGs	65.0	54.5	44.8	48.1
7th Grade EOGs	56.7	52.6	41.2	44.1
8th Grade EOGs	60.0	54.2	42.3	44.7
6th - 8th EOGs	60.5	53.7	42.8	45.6
High School EOCs	63.6	53.3	39.2	42.1

Student Growth Measures (By subgroup)

Group	Growth Score (out of 100)	Growth Status
All Students	59.4	Did Not Meet
Black	77.4	Met Growth
Hispanic	72.8	Met Growth
White	62.3	Did Not Meet
Economically Disadvantaged	69.6	Did Not Meet
Students w/Disabilities	72.1	Met Growth