



Reach Further

Global competitiveness starts here

7242 Highland Creek Parkway
Charlotte, North Carolina 28269

Dear CMS parent or guardian,

The North Carolina Board of Education released the results of last year’s End-of-Grade (EOG) and End-of-Course (EOC) assessments on Nov. 7. The tests were the first to reflect the new Common Core State Standards for English/Language Arts and Math and North Carolina Essential Standards for other subject areas. These standards set a new benchmark for what students are expected to know to graduate college- and career-ready.

The new standards and the assessments that measure them are more challenging than previous ones. They ask students to demonstrate higher-level thinking and reasoning skills to better prepare them to succeed in tomorrow’s global workplace. Here’s an example of how a 5th grade math question has changed based on the new standard:

<p><u>Old Standard:</u> Which of the following amounts is closest to $\frac{3}{4}$ of a dollar? a) \$0.30 b) \$0.40 c) \$0.70 d) \$0.90</p>	<p><u>New Standard</u> Two-thirds of students in a class are wearing blue jeans. Two-sixths of the students who are wearing blue jeans are also wearing red shirts. What fraction of the students in the class are wearing blue jeans and a red shirt? a) $\frac{2}{18}$ b) $\frac{2}{9}$ c) $\frac{6}{18}$ d) $\frac{4}{9}$</p>
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Forty-five states and the District of Columbia have adopted the Common Core State Standards. When states transition to higher standards, it is common for proficiency scores to drop dramatically. It doesn’t mean that students learned less or lost ground. The new scores cannot be accurately compared to the old ones because the tests, the standards and the proficiency requirements are different. The standards set a new benchmark for learning. As students become familiar with the new standards, we expect test scores to improve. That is the pattern we have seen in the past.

Results for the 2012-13 assessments are available at www.ncpublicschools.org. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools outperformed the state in overall performance and in every EOG and EOC tested area. Over eighty- one percent of our schools met or exceeded academic growth targets set by the state. Also, CMS met 85% of its annual measurable objectives (AMO) state targets and 94.5% of its federal targets. Results for Highland Creek Elementary are as follows.

<u>Performance Composite</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Math</u>	<u>Science</u>	<u>Math I</u>	<u>Biology</u>	<u>English II</u>	<u>Growth Status</u>	<u>AMO - State</u>	<u>AMO - Federal</u>
64.3	57.4	67.7	75.5	N/A	N/A	N/A	Exceeds	100%	100%

Your child’s individual scores will be available no later than Dec. 7. For your convenience, there is a tip sheet on the back of this letter, to help you as you prepare to talk to your child about test scores. More resources are available on the CMS Common Core webpage at www.cms.k12.nc.us.

All of us want our students to have the skills and knowledge to be successful in college and careers. These new scores reflect a transformation in how we are preparing students for future success. They challenge us to do better and we will. We have a new emphasis on teaching children to be independent thinkers, collaborators and problem solvers. We are preparing them to compete in a world that changes at faster speeds every day. You will be invited to a meeting in the near future, where I will share information about our school’s performance and the strategies we are using to help students achieve at the new higher levels. Thank you for supporting your child’s educational success at home and at school.

Sincerely,

Ernest Saxton, Principal
Highland Creek Elementary