

STATE REPORT CARD

1996-97

Growth and Performance of North Carolina Schools and School Systems
A Report Card for the ABCs of Public Education



Public Schools of North Carolina
State Board of Education
Department of Public Instruction
Michael E. Ward, State Superintendent

November 6, 1997

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Growth and Performance of North Carolina Schools and School Systems

A Report Card for the ABCs of Public Education

Introduction

The Report Card for the ABCs of Public Education meets the requirements of the *School Improvement and Accountability Act* (115C-15) enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1989 and the *School-Based Accountability and Management Program*, commonly called the ABCs (115C-105.20 - 115C-105.39) which was enacted by the North Carolina General Assembly in 1996. The ABCs of Public Education is a comprehensive plan that emphasizes three primary goals: to increase **A**ccountability for the performance of students in each public school (rather than school system accountability only); provide a focus on the **B**asics for teaching and learning (reading, mathematics, and writing) and high educational standards; and return **C**ontrol and flexibility for meeting the needs of students to each local school board.

The primary objective of The ABCs of Public Education is to increase the educational growth of students over time. The Report Card reports student achievement in grades 3-8 during the 1996-97 school year according to the ABCs growth and performance standards set by the State Board of Education for each school. State developed end-of-grade tests are used to measure student growth and performance in the North Carolina curriculum areas of reading, mathematics, and writing. The ABCs standards for school improvement in grades 3-8 consist of standards for expected growth, exemplary growth, and the percent of students performing at or above grade level.

ABCs accountability and reporting requirements for high school students are currently being developed. These requirements are scheduled for full implementation in 1997-98. The following data on high school student performance for the 1996-97 school year are included in this Report to establish base line information for future Report Cards: high school student performance in five North Carolina end-of-course core subjects (Algebra I; English I; Biology; Economic, Legal, and Political Systems;

and U. S. History); English II (writing); and Scholastic Assessment Test I results and percent tested.

The information in this Report is current as of October 1997. Obvious corrections to data files have been made as necessary up to the time of publication, but do not include any corrections or revisions resulting from appeals or other requests for additional consideration under the ABCs guidelines. The growth and performance of students in each school and school system are measured against their previous year's performance according to the ABCs accountability program. Therefore, it is not intended that student performance results be used to compare individual students, teachers, schools, and school systems to other students, teachers, schools, and school systems.

State and Local Reporting Requirements

The State Report Card is published annually by Public Schools of North Carolina and provides the results of student performance and achievement in elementary, middle, and high schools. The Report Card consists of three separate reports: The State Report Card, School System Report, and the School Building Improvement Report.

School systems report student performance for their system and for individual schools (School Building Improvement Report) each year pursuant to the ABCs legislation. While the latter reports are the responsibility of the local school system, Public Schools of North Carolina assists school systems by providing software and technical support necessary to produce the School System and School Building Improvement Reports. Local school systems have the option of using the suggested format and content of these Reports or developing comparable reports to meet the legislative requirements.