

► Piney Grove Elementary School



A Message from the Principal

To our Piney Grove Elementary School families:

This is the annual School Progress Report for Piney Grove Elementary, part of our efforts to keep families fully informed about our students' progress, our staff and our school environment.

I am proud that our children are continuing to make academic progress. Last year, we again made Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP), the standard set for schools by the No Child Left Behind Act, by meeting all 25 of our targets. The high number of AYP targets reflects the diversity of our school population.

The number of third-, fourth- and fifth-grade students demonstrating proficiency on the End-of-Grade tests increased from the previous year, and our fourth- and fifth-graders made Expected Growth overall. Achieving Expected Growth means that our students learned as much as they are expected to learn in a year.

This year, Piney Grove will become a Title I school because more than 75 percent of our students are designated economically disadvantaged. As a result, we will receive additional resources to support those students who are most in need. We will increase the level of family involvement and make sure that parents know more about what is going on at our school.

We will continue to work on developing our reading program. Last year, we focused on the core element of our reading program and we also increased the use of Accelerated Reader. You will now be able to access Accelerated Reader from home. In addition, we have purchased supplemental reading materials and tools to help us better meet the needs of students who are struggling to read. This is known as Response to Intervention. Such teaching will be focused on scientifically based research. Our reading scores improved last year, and I expect our school to make High Growth in reading this year.

(Principal's message continued on next page)

2009-2010 KEY FACTS

Data effective as of spring 2010

Grades

Pre-K - 5

School Population

- Students: **761**
- Classroom Teachers: **50**
- Support Staff:
 - 1 Assistant Principal
 - 3.5 English as a Second Language Teachers
 - 2.5 Speech Pathologists
 - 2.5 Exceptional Children Teachers
 - 0.5 Social Workers
 - 1 Academic Facilitator
 - 1 Talent Development Teacher
 - 1 Counselor
 - 39 Other

Student Demographics

- African-American..... **41.4%**
- White..... **13.8%**
- Hispanic..... **34.8%**
- Asian..... **2.6%**
- Other..... **7.4%**
- Economically..... **81.2%**
disadvantaged students

Additional Facts*

- Per-pupil expenditure **\$5,583**
- Teacher-to-pupil ratio **1:19**
- Student-mobility rate **18%**

**Click here for more information.*

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Piney Grove Elementary School

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(Principal's message continued)

In math, we will continue to use the Math Investigations program. Our math test scores also increased last year, and we are very proud that our students achieved High Growth in the subject. We believe that our concentration on problem solving helped us achieve this success.

Our faculty is strong and stable. Many of our staff are National Board-certified or are working toward certification. We also have many teachers who have completed, or are working on, master's degrees. The staff provides many extracurricular activities for our children. We will continue to provide opportunities for students to participate in a variety of clubs, and we will also support community-service projects to enhance the development of outstanding character.

Parent support continues to be a source of pride. We work hard to keep the lines of communication open, and our parent surveys indicate that you are very satisfied with our school and your children's teachers.

Family involvement events are very well attended, and our PTA supports school programs and provides many fun opportunities for family involvement.

I am confident that we will achieve High Growth this school year at Piney Grove. Our staff is dedicated, our students are focused and hardworking and our parents and community are supportive. This combination will ensure that our students demonstrate continued improvement and success.

Sincerely,
Halina Robertson
Principal

[– Click to view our School Quality Review](#)

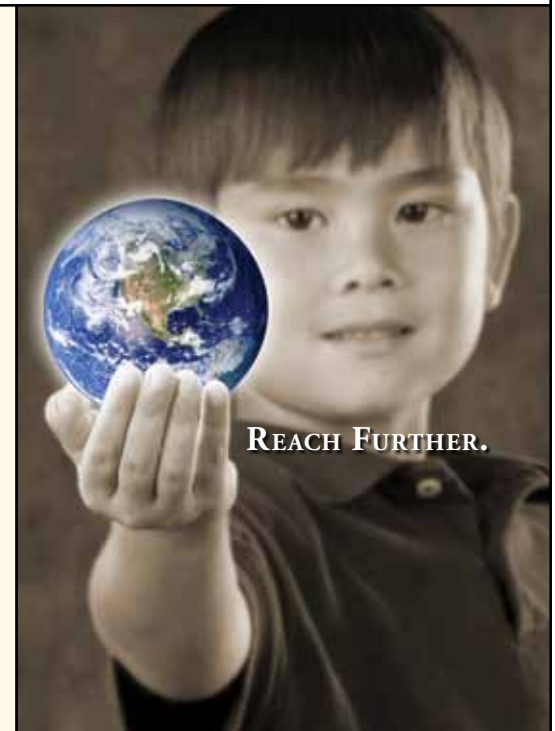
[– Click to view our School Improvement Plan](#)

What is the School Progress Report?

In 2006, we introduced the *Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools Strategic Plan 2010* outlining our vision and strategy to educate our students to compete locally, nationally and internationally.

The plan outlines seven areas of concentration: high academic achievement; effective educators; adequate resources and facilities; safe and orderly schools; freedom and flexibility with accountability; world-class service, and strong parent and community connections. This report summarizes how our school performed in the 2009-10 school year in making progress on these seven goals. On the final page, you will also find an explanation of federal and state accountability measures.

Educators and parents have a common goal of preparing our children to compete in an ever-growing global community. Working together requires frequent dialogue between school and parents, so please feel free to contact the principal or any staff member at our school.



REACH FURTHER.



Piney Grove Elementary School

PROGRESS REPORT

CMS 2010 Strategic Plan Goals	Key Performance Measures	CMS 2010 Goal	CMS Elem. Schools 2009 - 2010	Our School 2008 - 2009	Our School 2009 - 2010
High Academic Achievement ▶ Because of federal privacy regulations, the actual values for these measures are not shown if the percentage is greater than 95 percent or less than 5 percent. Disparity between socioeconomic groups is shown as a positive percentage when non-economically disadvantaged students outscore economically disadvantaged students; a negative percentage indicates the reverse. <i>Data effective as of 8/27/10</i>	▶ Students performing at or above grade level overall ¹	—	75.2%	68.3%	71.4%
	▶ Students performing at or above grade level in reading	95%	70.2%	63.6%	62.3%
	▶ Students performing at or above grade level in math	88%	82.3%	77.3%	78.8%
	▶ Students performing at or above grade level in science	80%	68.6%	56%	77%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in reading	10%	33.5%	36.4%	25.3%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in math	10%	22.9%	28.7%	30.1%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in science	10%	36.8%	58.8%	18.6%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in reading	10%	31%	-1.1%	12.7%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in math	10%	19.1%	8%	6.2%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in science	10%	32.2%	10.2%	17.3%
Effective Educators Click to view teacher survey results	Teachers deemed highly qualified, having appropriate educational backgrounds and state certification(s) for the grade levels and subjects they are teaching	99%	100%	100%	100%
	National Board-certified teachers	18%	15%	11%	16%
	Teachers with graduate degrees	38%	38%	26%	29%
	Teachers' average years of experience	11.1	10.6	8.9	9.9
Adequate Resources & Facilities	Student/Computer Ratio	5:1	4:1	4:1	4:1
	Teachers who indicate satisfaction with school facilities	—	72.7%	—	65.6%
Safe & Orderly Schools	Passed the CMS safe school audit	100%	69%	YES	NO
	Parents who indicate this is a safe school ²	70%	96.8%	97.6%	97.2%
	Students who indicate this is a safe school ²	80%	91.8%	91.4%	91.1%
	Teachers who indicate this is a safe school ^{1,2}	—	90.4%	86.6%	92.3%
	Number of incidents resulting in in-school suspensions ^{1,3}	—	0.6	0	0
	Number of incidents resulting in out-of-school suspensions ^{1,3}	—	7.2	7.7	8.5
Freedom & Flexibility with Accountability	Principal has been granted additional freedom and flexibility ¹	—	56%	NO	YES
World-Class Service	Parents who indicate satisfaction with the responsiveness of staff at this school ²	80%	88.6%	96.4%	91.7%
Strong Parent & Community Connections Click to view parent survey results	Parents who indicate satisfaction overall with this school ^{1,2}	—	88.4%	91%	91.9%
	Number of volunteer hours ⁴	Increase by 25% district-wide	235	23	142
	Number of business and community partnerships	Increase by 25% district-wide	580	4	3

¹Not a CMS 2010 goal

²Based on responses to surveys; multiple survey items may have been used to create a composite

³Incidents per 100 students

⁴Per 100 students

CMS Accountability Measures

The learning of students in public education is measured in multiple ways. There are assessments given at regular intervals by CMS—tests that we use to measure how students are learning as the school year progresses. Other tests are required by the state and given once or twice a year, such as End-of-Course and End-of-Grade tests. Some of the state test results are also used to calculate district progress on the federal standard of Adequate Yearly Progress for each student. This page provides brief explanations of some of the measures and tests used in CMS.

▶ Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP)

Our school **DID** make AYP
(25 of 25 goals met)

The federal No Child Left Behind Act requires that every school make Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP). AYP is an all-or-nothing standard: Every target must be met.

State test results are used to set AYP targets. There are separate targets for the school as a whole and for nine subgroups of students: white, black, Hispanic, Native American, Asian, multiracial, economically disadvantaged students, students with limited English proficiency and students with disabilities. Subgroups of students are measured separately so that an overall score for a class or a school does not mask poor results within a subgroup.

Some schools are more diverse than others, so the number of subgroups varies by school. Therefore, the number of AYP targets varies by school, too. Some schools may have only a few targets to meet; others may have the maximum, which is 41. School attendance and graduation rates are also measured for AYP.

For a more complete overview of AYP, visit www.dpi.state.nc.us/nclb/abcayp/overview/ayp

For details of AYP results for our school and its student groups, visit <http://ayp.ncpublicschools.org>

▶ ABC Designation

Our school's designation: **School of Progress (DID meet growth expectations)**

Proficiency:	2008-09	2009-10
	68.3%	71.4%

The North Carolina ABCs program was introduced more than a decade ago to help schools improve. It uses two basic measures to assess a school's performance: the Average Growth of students (at right); and the Performance Composite, which measures how well students performed against a state-set standard of academic achievement.

Schools are given one of seven designations. In descending order, they are: Honor School of Excellence, School of Excellence, School of Distinction, School of Progress, No Recognition, Priority School, and Low Performing.

For more information about ABCs, visit <http://abcs.ncpublicschools.org/abcs>

▶ Average Growth

State Standard	Our School:	2008-09	2009-10
80		82	82.8

Did our students meet the state's expectation for academic growth? Each student is expected to perform as well (or better) on the End-of-Grade assessment as he or she did, on average, during the previous two years. Average Growth for a school is calculated by comparing actual performance to expected performance and then averaging the difference across all students and all subjects. The score above reflects the combined growth rate of all of our students. To make expected growth, a school must have a score of 80 or higher.

▶ Amount of Growth for Students in the Lowest-Achieving Group

Our School 2008-09: 82 **Our School 2009-10: 82.4**

Are we helping our low achievers catch up? Historically, some economically disadvantaged and minority students have trailed their classmates in academic achievement. This is called the achievement gap, and closing it is one of the biggest challenges in public education. If the lower-achieving students at a school show academic growth at a faster rate than higher-achieving students, the achievement gap is narrowed. When the score for this measure is higher than the Average Growth for the school, the school is closing the achievement gap.

▶ Students Making or Exceeding a Year's Worth of Growth

State Standard	Our School:	2008-09	2009-10
60%		57.8%	58%

Did our students learn as much as they were expected to learn this year? As described above, the state sets expectations for each student based on individual performance for the previous two years. Across the state, about half of students typically meet or exceed this growth expectation. To earn the high-growth designation, a school must meet the average-growth standard described above and also have more than 60% of its students make expected growth.

▶ Positive Responses to Student Survey Items

Our School's Results:	2008-09	2009-10
Safety	91.4%	91.1%
Encouragement	96.6%	98%
Engagement	95.6%	96.3%

Is our school environment conducive to learning? This measure is subjective—it is taken from a student survey.

[Click to view student survey results.](#)

▶ Return-on-Investment Index

CMS Elementary School Index: 50.9 **Our School Index: 51.6**



Return on Investment is calculated by comparing students' academic growth to the per-pupil expenditure. This measure is intended to help parents and community members understand how money is spent in our schools. [Click here for more information.](#)

For more information on our school's performance, visit <http://pmd.cms.k12.nc.us>