

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools has long been recognized as an innovative and progressive district, both here in North Carolina and across the country. Our top priority is academic excellence. We are privileged to serve nearly 148,000 students and we want every one of them to graduate with the 21st-century skills that will prepare them for post-secondary success.

Our students are diverse, coming from 183 different countries. Each one of our students has individual needs, learning styles and aspirations. To serve them, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools has 176 schools and a broad spectrum of programs. Among them are nine magnet programs spread over 47 schools. We have 10 schools that offer Career and Technical Education options, six early and middle college schools, 35 schools with Advanced Placement courses and 16 schools that offer the rigorous International Baccalaureate program.

Our state testing results in 2017 were mixed. We made progress in some areas, notably math proficiency and the ACT WorkKeys tests. But the results also show we have much work to do. Our focus on improving proficiency in reading and science will continue, as will our efforts to establish a viable, guaranteed curriculum and to accelerate overall school performance. We will do that by digging into what worked well at many schools and making sure we provide that for *all* schools. There is no easy answer but there is an answer and we are focused on finding it.

Our goal as a district is to do everything we can for our community's children and young people to help them realize their potential. Test scores are one tool to help us improve our efforts. Together with what we observe in the classroom, we will use these scores as a benchmark for improving and strengthening our work. But we will not lose sight of the fact that there are real students and teachers working hard every day behind all of those numbers. We will continue to strengthen our schools so that every student has the opportunity for success.

Respectfully,  
Dr. Clayton M. Wilcox  
Superintendent