



September 13, 2019

Dear DPS families:

The 2018-19 school year was a very good one for Durham Public Schools. Thanks to our outstanding teachers and staff who were supported by our 2018-2023 Strategic Plan, our student achievement went *up*, the number of our schools with “A” or “B” School Performance Grades went *up*, our percentage of students graduating in four years went *up*, and the number of our schools labeled with an “F” school performance grade or called “low performing” went *down*. We even had a higher percentage of schools meeting or exceeding expectations of academic progress over the year—*84 percent*—than the state average of 75 percent.

At this time last year, I was able to share with our families that “Durham Public Schools is on the move.” This year, I am pleased to provide you with more evidence. Your child is in the right place, with strong and supportive educators leading the way to *ignite limitless potential*.

Every year a North Carolina School Report Card is released for every public and charter school. It’s a snapshot of selected data including student performance, class size, attendance, school safety, instructional resources, and teacher quality. The School Report Card tells *part* of the story. Changes in academic programs, staffing and student enrollment may affect a school’s performance in any given year. The formula our state uses to assign a letter grade to your school is based 80 percent on overall academic achievement and 20 percent on the academic growth students made from the beginning of the school year to its end. Growth is a more accurate measure of how much a school’s teachers and staff accomplished during the year with their students.

If you have any questions about the information in the School Report Card, please contact your child’s school and they will be happy to help you. It is also important that you get to know your child’s teachers and staff and become a part of your school community so that you can fully understand your school’s strengths.

We are grateful that you are part of Durham Public Schools, and it is our honor to serve your child.

Sincerely,

Pascal Mubenga, Ph.D.