



# Pocosin Innovative Charter

Offering an Innovative, Agri-Focused Curriculum

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500 1st Street  
Creswell NC, 27928

October 19, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly provides parents with an additional measure of school performance in the form of School Performance Grades. Beginning with the 2013–14 school year, the annual North Carolina School Report Cards display a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F for each school in the state.

The School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At Pocosin Innovative Charter, our achievement score for the 2022-2023 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grades 3–8 Mathematics, Grades 3–8 English Language Arts/Reading, and Grades 5 and 8 Science.

Although all of our classes made tremendous growth and improvement during the 2022-2023 school year, the purpose of this letter is to inform you that Pocosin Innovative Charter, has been designated as a low performing school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As defined in G.S. 115C-105.37: "The State Board of Education shall identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15."

Pocosin Innovative Charter received a School Performance Grade of *D (5 percentage points from a C) for 3-8 EOGs* and a growth designation of MET GROWTH for the 2022–2023 school year. Although we are committed to improving this score, it is important to remember that just as no one single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about the performance of a school or the opportunities that our school provides.

As an agriculture based Charter School we strive to:

- grow all students academically in all areas
- provide hands on agriculture learning
- provide authentic, real world learning experiences in all academic areas
- provide leadership and character education building opportunities
- provide a positive role model and relationship with and for each student as well as his or her family

As a low performing school, we are required to develop an improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve both the school performance grade and school growth score. The plan will also include how the superintendent and other central office administrators in the district will work with us and monitor the progress of our school. We are already engaged in the work of refining our plan and will present the plan to our school board at their next meeting, November 21, 2023 at 6:00pm where the plan will be presented for approval. The final plan will be available for review on our school website <https://www.pocosininnovativecharter.org>.

One of our top priorities for 2023–2024 is to improve our School Performance Grade. There are a number of key programs we have in place to help improve student performance. These include:

- Strategic placement of instructional staff to maximize teacher areas of speciality for instruction
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- Executing a school schedule that increases instructional time for all students
- Executing a school schedule that requires students to on campus for instruction to begin at 8am each day
- Providing in school and after school student tutoring, remediation and reteaching of objectives
- Fluid ability grouping of students - allows for students to move at their pace while learning
- Rigorous instruction but foundational support for students as needed - filling learning gaps while pushing students to their learning potential

We hope you will closely follow your student's academic progress and work with his or her teacher(s) to help ensure they stay on track academically. Working together as a team, we can improve not only how well our students are performing individually, but how our school is performing as a whole. There is nothing more important to administrators and teachers at Pocosin Innovative Charter than ensuring students are ready for the next step in their academic careers. I look forward to working with you to make sure your student is on track for success.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our School Performance Grade and how we plan to improve, please don't hesitate to contact Jackie Etheridge or Shelia Cumiskey.

Sincerely,

Jackie Etheridge  
Pocosin Innovative Charter Director of Operations

Shelia Cumiskey  
Pocosin Innovative Charter Academic Director