

► First Ward Elementary School



A Message from the Area Superintendent

Dear First Ward Elementary School families:

This is the annual School Progress Report for First Ward Elementary. We are sending this to you so that you may be fully informed about our students' academic progress, our staff and our school environment. All of us at the school and in the Central Learning Community that includes First Ward will keep you updated on progress and new initiatives throughout the school year.

As you will see, First Ward had a composite proficiency rate on the 2008-2009 stated End-of-Grade math tests of 50.4 percent. These results show that just under half of our students did not demonstrate proficiency in math. On the reading test, our composite proficiency rate was 49.6 percent, and on the science test, 24.7 percent of students demonstrated proficiency. We experienced an overall decline in scores from the 2007-2008 school year, and we are currently working on corrective strategies to address the various factors we feel contributed to this decline.

We also did not make Adequate Yearly Progress, the standard set for schools by the No Child Left Behind Act. We met 10 of our 13 targets.

We are working to meet these challenges so that our students can learn and achieve at a higher rate. We will provide ongoing, research-based professional development for our teachers and staff. In addition, we will begin our after-school tutorial program earlier this year to give students more opportunities to catch up on the core material.

(Area Superintendent's message continued on back)

KEY FACTS

Data effective as of spring 2009

First Ward Elementary School is a partial Accelerated Learning magnet.

Grades

K - 5

School Population

- 442 Students
- 34 Teachers
- 1 Assistant Principal
- 1 Student Services Specialist
- 30 Support Staff

Student Demographics

- 95.5% African American
- 0.2% White
- 1.4% Hispanic
- 0.5% Asian
- 2.5% Other
- 84.2% of students qualify for free or reduced-price lunch

Learning Community

Central

Area Superintendent: Joel Ritchie
324 N. McDowell Street
Suite 100
Charlotte, NC 28204
980-343-1465
email: j.ritchie@cms.k12.nc.us

First Ward Elementary School

715 North Caldwell Street
Charlotte, NC 28202
980-343-5427

<http://pages.cms.k12.nc.us/firstward>



CMS 2010 Strategic Plan Goals	Key Performance Measures	CMS 2010 Goal	CMS Result 2008 - 2009	School Result 2008 - 2009
<p>High Academic Achievement</p> <p>Students in grades three through eight who do not pass the End-of-Grade tests may take the test again. Retests often raise a school's score at least slightly, because some students pass the test on the second try. Retest results were not included in school scores until 2008-2009. Comparing the 2007-2008 scores and the 2008-2009 scores is therefore not valid, because the scores were not calculated the same way.</p> <p>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.</p> <p><i>Data effective as of 7/14/09</i></p>	Students performing at or above grade level overall ¹	—	72%	50.0%
	Students performing at or above grade level in reading	95%	68%	49.6%
	Students performing at or above grade level in math	88%	80%	50.4%
	Students performing at or above grade level in science	80%	60%	24.7%
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in reading	10%	34%	NA
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in math	10%	26%	NA
	Disparity between racial/ethnic groups in science	10%	44%	NA
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in reading	10%	28%	21.6%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in math	10%	18%	14.6%
	Disparity between socioeconomic groups in science	10%	32%	13.7%
<p>Effective Educators</p>	Teachers deemed highly qualified, having appropriate educational backgrounds and state certification(s) for the grade levels and subjects they are teaching	99%	100%	100%
	National Board-certified teachers	17%	13%	12%
	Teachers with graduate degrees	36%	35%	56%
	Teachers' average years of experience	11.2	10.3	11.3
<p>Adequate Resources & Facilities</p>	Student/Computer Ratio	5:1	3:1	2:1
<p>Safe & Orderly Schools</p>	Passed the CMS safe school audit	YES	YES	YES
	Parents who indicate this is a safe school ²	70%	96%	Insufficient Response
	Students who indicate this is a safe school ²	80%	93%	82.3%
	Teachers who indicate this is a safe school ^{1,2}	—	89%	64.2%
	Number of incidents resulting in in-school suspensions ^{1,3}	—	—	0
	Number of incidents resulting in out-of-school suspensions ^{1,3}	—	—	34.8
<p>Freedom & Flexibility with Accountability</p>	Principal has been granted additional freedom and flexibility ¹	—	—	NO
<p>World-Class Service</p>	Parents who indicate satisfaction with the responsiveness of staff at this school ²	80%	88%	Insufficient Response
<p>Strong Parent & Community Connections</p>	Parents who indicate satisfaction overall with this school ^{1,2}	—	86%	Insufficient Response
	Number of volunteer hours ⁴	Increase by 25% district-wide	—	334
	Number of business and community partnerships	Increase by 25% district-wide	—	9

¹ Not a CMS 2010 goal

² Based on responses to 2008-09 survey; multiple survey items may have been used to create a composite

³ Incidents per 100 students

⁴ Per 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 NOT** make AYP
(10 of 13 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: **Priority School**
(DID NOT meet growth expectations)

Proficiency: 50.0%

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: 80%
Our School: 77.5%

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.

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

State Standard: 60%
Our School: 44.9%

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.

► Amount of Growth for Students in the Lowest Achieving Group

Our School: 74.1%

Are we helping our low achievers catch up? Historically, some poor 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 percentage for this measure is higher than the Average Growth for the school, the school is closing the achievement gap.

► Positive Responses to Multiple Student Survey Items

Our School's Results:	Safety	82%
	Encouragement	95%
	Engagement	91%

Do our students perceive this school as safe and welcoming? This measure is subjective—it is taken from a student survey.

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(Area Superintendent's message continued)

With the guidance of the administrative team, teachers will use data from formative and state assessments to develop groups within the classroom setting. These groups will focus on differentiated instruction, a flexible teaching approach that adapts the curriculum to individual learning styles.

We have a strong faculty and staff at First Ward, and 100 percent are deemed highly qualified.

Please be assured that the staff and I remain committed to providing your child with the best educational experience possible. Our mission for this year is to make student learning our central goal and we hope that you, our parents, will join us in helping the children of First Ward advance academically.

Sincerely,
Joel Ritchie
Area Superintendent

Even parents can learn a thing or two.

The most successful students have parents, grandparents or caretakers who are actively involved in their education. These students earn better grades, achieve higher test scores and have better attendance records.

How can you be an active participant in your child's education? Our community has banded together to help answer your questions on parenting awareness, helping your child learn, health and wellness and personal growth and development.

Learn more at www.cms.k12.nc.us.

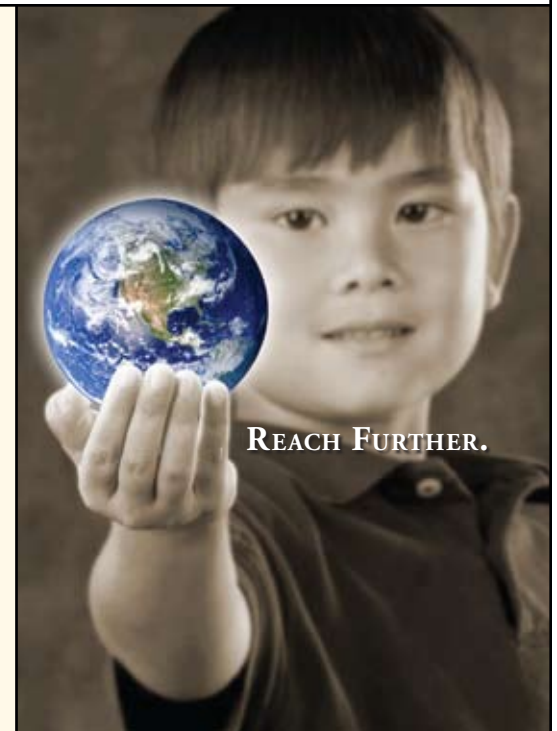


What is the School Progress Report?

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 2008-09 school year in making progress on these seven goals. On page 3, 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.

