

Remote Academies Evaluation

G.S. 115C-234.25

Evaluation of Remote Charter Academies

G.S. 115C-218.125

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NORTH CAROLINA
State Board of Education
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Executive Summary

- This evaluation provides an overview of Remote Academies (district-run) and Remote Charter Academies (charter-run).
- It summarizes enrollment, performance, and key findings. The analysis highlights both successes and challenges.

Legislative Authority

| Feature | Remote Academies (District-Run) | Remote Charter Academies (Charter-Run) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Statutory Authority | Session Law 2022-74, sec. 7.13 (HB 103); codified in G.S. 115C-234 | Session Law 2023-134, sec. 7.26 (HB 259); codified in G.S. 115C-234.25 |
| Eligible Operators | Local School Administrative Units (districts) | Charter Schools authorized under NC law |
| Purpose | Expand access to high-quality remote instruction within districts | Expand access to high-quality remote instruction through charters |
| Instructional Model | Primarily online; combination of synchronous & asynchronous learning | Primarily online; combination of synchronous & asynchronous learning |
| Accountability | Must meet same accountability/reporting requirements as other district schools | Must meet same accountability/reporting requirements as other charter schools |
| Approval Process | District must apply to and receive approval from the State Board of Education | Charter school must apply to and receive approval from the State Board of Education |
| Enrollment | Students are enrolled in the district/PSU that operates the Remote Academy | Students are enrolled in the charter school operating the RCA |
| Original Authority Date | 2022 (S.L. 2022-74) | 2023 (S.L. 2023-134) |

Current Year Status (2024-2025)

- 39 Remote Academies evaluated
- Performance Grades spanned A–F
- Graduation rates and student demographics varied widely
- Some schools reported incomplete data due to size or newness



Current Year Status (2024-2025)

| Public School Unit Code | Public School Unit Name | School Code | School Name | School Performance Grade Score | School Performance Grade | 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate | 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate | Economically Disadvantaged Student Percentage |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 00A | North Carolina Cyber Academy | 00A000 | North Carolina Cyber Academy | 51 | D | 60.7 | 65.7 | 68.4 |
| 00B | NC Virtual Academy | 00B000 | NC Virtual Academy | 48 | D | 79.4 | 75.9 | 68.6 |
| 33A | North East Carolina Prep | 33A310 | NE Carolina Prep School Remote Academy | * | I | * | * | * |
| 53B | Ascend Leadership Academy Lee County | 53B310 | Ascend Leadership Remote Academy | 32 | F | * | * | 51.3 |
| 62L | Telra Institute | 62L310 | Telra Institute Remote Academy | * | I | * | * | * |
| 76A | Uwharrie Charter Academy | 76A310 | Uwharrie Charter Remote Academy | 26 | F | 81.5 | * | 42.2 |
| 93N | Pine Springs Preparatory Academy | 93N310 | Pine Springs Preparatory Remote Academy | 29 | F | <5 | * | 72.2 |



Current Year Status (2024-2025)

| Public School Unit Code | Public School Unit Name | School Code | School Name | School Performance Grade Score | School Performance Grade | 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate | 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate | Economically Disadvantaged Student Percentage |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 10 | Alamance-Burlington Schools | 010450 | Alamance Virtual School | 49 | D | 85.7 | 86.4 | 63.1 |
| 110 | Buncombe County Schools | 110475 | Buncombe County Schools Virtual Academy | 60 | C | 93.9 | 94.4 | 49 |
| 120 | Burke County Schools | 120300 | Burke Virtual Academy | 54 | D | * | * | * |
| 130 | Cabarrus County Schools | 130356 | Cabarrus County Schools Virtual Academy | 69 | C | 92.3 | 89.3 | 38.2 |
| 140 | Caldwell County Schools | 140313 | Caldwell Online Academy | 68 | C | 89.5 | >95 | 58.5 |
| 190 | Chatham County Schools | 190309 | Chatham County Schools Virtual Academy | 51 | D | * | 72.7 | 57.1 |
| 230 | Cleveland County Schools | 230323 | Cleveland Innovation | 67 | C | 72.2 | 84 | 56.3 |



Current Year Status (2024-2025)

| Public School Unit Code | Public School Unit Name | School Code | School Name | School Performance Grade Score | School Performance Grade | 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate | 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate | Economically Disadvantaged Student Percentage |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 250 | Craven County Board of Education | 250379 | Craven Virtual Academy | 39 | F | 94.4 | 90.5 | 52.1 |
| 260 | Cumberland County Schools | 260460 | Cumberland Virtual Academy 6-12 | 63 | C | 91.5 | 82.2 | 63.9 |
| 260 | Cumberland County Schools | 260461 | Cumberland Virtual Academy K-5 | 48 | D | * | * | 77.4 |
| 300 | Davie County Schools | 300316 | Davie County Virtual School | 58 | C | * | * | 69.2 |
| 320 | Durham Public Schools | 320401 | Ignite Online Academy | 50 | D | 73.1 | 80.4 | 58.5 |
| 340 | Winston Salem / Forsyth County Schools | 340398 | Virtual Academy | 35 | F | * | * | 70.1 |
| 340 | Winston Salem / Forsyth County Schools | 340488 | J F Kennedy High | 60 | C | 84 | 81 | 72.8 |



Current Year Status (2024-2025)

| Public School Unit Code | Public School Unit Name | School Code | School Name | School Performance Grade Score | School Performance Grade | 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate | 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate | Economically Disadvantaged Student Percentage |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 360 | Gaston County Schools | 360550 | Gaston Virtual Academy | 62 | C | 76.3 | 75.4 | 59.5 |
| 390 | Granville County Schools | 390321 | Granville Academy | 54 | D | 93.1 | 90.9 | 35.7 |
| 410 | Guilford County Schools | 410302 | Guilford eLearning University Prep | 40 | D | * | * | 68.3 |
| 430 | Harnett County Schools | 430385 | Harnett Virtual Academy | 34 | F | 72 | 57.9 | 68.7 |
| 490 | Iredell-Statesville Schools | 490310 | Career Academy and Technical School | 65 | C | 87.1 | >95 | 21.7 |
| 490 | Iredell-Statesville Schools | 490333 | ISS Virtual Academy | 60 | C | 82.4 | 85.3 | 34.7 |
| 510 | Johnston County Public Schools | 510365 | JCPS Virtual Academy | NA | NA | 74.5 | 79.6 | 49.5 |

Current Year Status (2024-2025)

| Public School Unit Code | Public School Unit Name | School Code | School Name | School Performance Grade Score | School Performance Grade | 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate | 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate | Economically Disadvantaged Student Percentage |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 560 | Macon County Schools | 560340 | Macon Virtual Academy | 82 | B | 81.8 | 93.8 | 55.6 |
| 600 | Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools | 600499 | Charlotte-Mecklenburg Virtual School | 72 | B | 93.2 | >95 | 54.7 |
| 630 | Moore County Schools | 630399 | Connect Academy | 66 | C | 84.2 | >95 | 31.6 |
| 640 | Nash County Public Schools | 640341 | Nash Everywhere Digital Academy (NEDA) | 50 | D | 84.2 | >95 | 76.4 |
| 660 | Northampton County Schools | 660450 | Northampton Virtual Academy | * | I | >95 | >95 | 72.7 |
| 670 | Onslow County Schools | 670379 | Onslow Virtual School | 46 | D | 75.9 | 74 | 54.7 |
| 730 | Person County Schools | 730362 | PCS Virtual Academy | 76 | B | >95 | 91.4 | 39.6 |

Current Year Status (2024-2025)

| Public School Unit Code | Public School Unit Name | School Code | School Name | School Performance Grade Score | School Performance Grade | 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate | 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate | Economically Disadvantaged Student Percentage |
|-------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 740 | Pitt County Schools | 740600 | Pitt County Virtual | 65 | C | * | * | 54.5 |
| 760 | Randolph County School System | 760385 | The Virtual Academy at Randolph | 38 | F | * | * | 68.6 |
| 800 | Rowan-Salisbury Schools | 800500 | Summit Virtual Academy | 44 | D | 82.6 | * | 69 |
| 840 | Stanly County Schools | 840366 | Stanly County Virtual Education | 27 | F | 79.2 | 78.9 | 47.6 |
| 860 | Surry County Schools | 860353 | Surry Online Magnet School | 65 | C | >95 | 91.2 | 51.3 |
| 910 | Vance County Schools | 910369 | Vance Virtual Village Academy | 47 | D | 80 | 77.8 | 79.2 |
| 920 | Wake County Schools | 920386 | Crossroads FLEX | 92 | A | >95 | >95 | 6.3 |



Current Year Status (2024-2025)

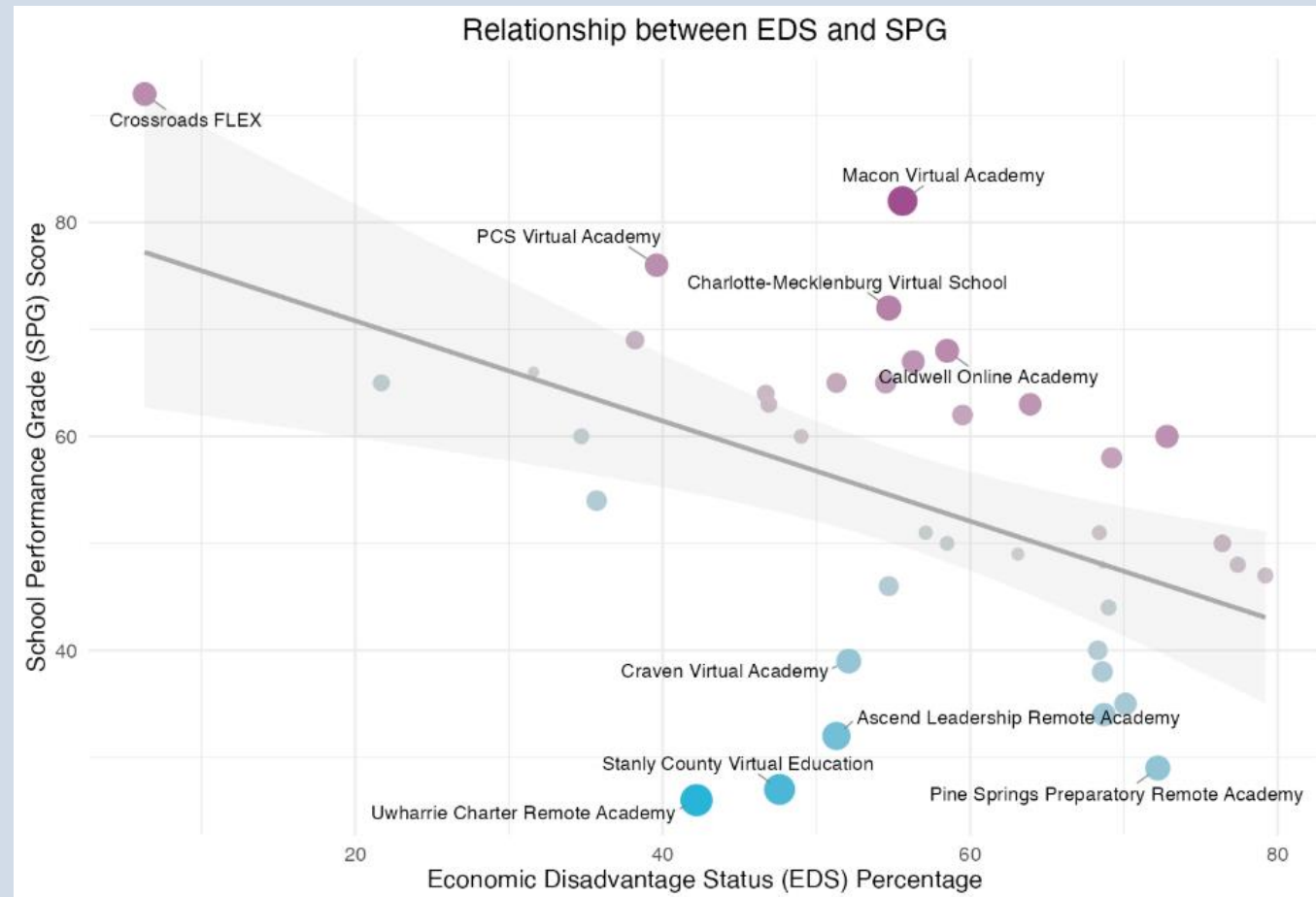
| Public School Unit Code | Public School Unit Name | School Code | School Name | School Performance Grade Score | School Performance Grade | 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate | 5-year Cohort Graduation Rate | Economically Disadvantaged Student Percentage |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|
| 950 | Watauga County Schools | 950334 | Watauga Virtual Academy | 64 | C | * | * | 46.7 |
| 980 | Wilson County Schools | 980500 | Wilson Academy of Virtual Education | 63 | C | * | * | 46.9 |



Academic Performance

Research consistently shows that student achievement is strongly correlated with socioeconomic status. Schools serving higher percentages of economically disadvantaged students (EDS) often have lower overall performance grades, even when those schools are making meaningful progress with their students. To account for this context, NCDPI estimated a simple ordinary least squares regression using data from 39 remote academies, with School Performance Grade (SPG) as the outcome and the share of Economically Disadvantaged Students (EDS%) as the sole predictor. This approach provides an expected SPG for each school given its poverty concentration and a residual for each school showing the gap between its actual SPG and what the model predicts for a school with the same EDS%.

Academic Performance



Academic Performance

Limitations of the Analysis

Although poverty concentration is strongly related to SPG, there remains considerable variation among remote academies that EDS alone does not explain.

Because the model includes only EDS% and the sample is modest, unmodeled school factors and statistical noise can influence a school's placement. Residuals should not be used as rankings and policymakers should avoid drawing strong conclusions about "above" or "below" expectations without considering additional evidence about school context and performance.

This analysis relies on a single predictor and therefore does not account for other important differences among schools, such as prior performance, the balance of growth versus achievement within SPG, or the specific model of remote instruction.

Academic Performance

| School Name | EDS % | Actual SPG | Predicted SPG | Residual |
|--------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------|----------|
| Q4 (Top 25%) | | | | |
| Macon Virtual Academy | 55.60 | 82.00 | 54.13 | +27.87 |
| Charlotte-Mecklenburg Virtual School | 54.70 | 72.00 | 54.55 | +17.45 |
| Caldwell Online Academy | 58.50 | 68.00 | 52.77 | +15.23 |
| Crossroads FLEX | 6.30 | 92.00 | 77.22 | +14.78 |
| PCS Virtual Academy | 39.60 | 76.00 | 61.62 | +14.38 |
| J F Kennedy High | 72.80 | 60.00 | 46.08 | +13.92 |
| Cleveland Innovation | 56.30 | 67.00 | 53.80 | +13.20 |
| Cumberland Virtual Academy 6-12 | 63.90 | 63.00 | 50.25 | +12.75 |
| Pitt County Virtual | 54.50 | 65.00 | 54.65 | +10.35 |
| Davie County Virtual School | 69.20 | 58.00 | 47.76 | +10.24 |



Academic Performance

| School Name | EDS % | Actual SPG | Predicted SPG | Residual |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------|----------|
| Q3 (50-75%) | | | | |
| Gaston Virtual Academy | 59.50 | 62.00 | 52.31 | +9.69 |
| Surry Online Magnet School | 51.30 | 65.00 | 56.15 | +8.85 |
| Cabarrus County Schools Virtual Academy | 38.20 | 69.00 | 62.28 | +6.72 |
| Watauga Virtual Academy | 46.70 | 64.00 | 58.30 | +5.70 |
| Nash Everywhere Digital Academy (NEDA) | 76.40 | 50.00 | 44.39 | +5.61 |
| Wilson Academy of Virtual Education | 46.90 | 63.00 | 58.21 | +4.79 |
| Cumberland Virtual Academy K-5 | 77.40 | 48.00 | 43.93 | +4.07 |
| Vance Virtual Village Academy | 79.20 | 47.00 | 43.08 | +3.92 |
| North Carolina Cyber Academy* | 68.40 | 51.00 | 48.14 | +2.86 |

Academic Performance

| School Name | EDS % | Actual SPG | Predicted SPG | Residual |
|-----------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------|----------|
| Q2 (25-50%) | | | | |
| Buncombe County Schools Virtual Academy | 49.00 | 60.00 | 57.22 | +2.78 |
| Connect Academy | 31.60 | 66.00 | 65.37 | +0.63 |
| NC Virtual Academy* | 68.60 | 48.00 | 48.05 | -0.05 |
| Alamance Virtual School | 63.10 | 49.00 | 50.62 | -1.62 |
| Chatham County Schools Virtual Academy | 57.10 | 51.00 | 53.43 | -2.43 |
| Ignite Online Academy | 58.50 | 50.00 | 52.77 | -2.77 |
| Summit Virtual Academy | 69.00 | 44.00 | 47.86 | -3.86 |
| ISS Virtual Academy | 34.70 | 60.00 | 63.92 | -3.92 |
| Career Academy and Technical School | 21.70 | 65.00 | 70.00 | -5.00 |
| Guilford eLearning University Prep | 68.30 | 40.00 | 48.19 | -8.19 |



Academic Performance

| School Name | EDS % | Actual SPG | Predicted SPG | Residual |
|------------------------------------------|-------|------------|---------------|----------|
| Q1 (Bottom 25%) | | | | |
| Onslow Virtual School | 54.70 | 46.00 | 54.55 | -8.55 |
| Granville Academy | 35.70 | 54.00 | 63.45 | -9.45 |
| The Virtual Academy at Randolph | 68.60 | 38.00 | 48.05 | -10.05 |
| Virtual Academy | 70.10 | 35.00 | 47.34 | -12.34 |
| Harnett Virtual Academy | 68.70 | 34.00 | 48.00 | -14.00 |
| Craven Virtual Academy | 52.10 | 39.00 | 55.77 | -16.77 |
| Pine Springs Preparatory Remote Academy* | 72.20 | 29.00 | 46.36 | -17.36 |
| Ascend Leadership Remote Academy* | 51.30 | 32.00 | 56.15 | -24.15 |
| Stanly County Virtual Education | 47.60 | 27.00 | 57.88 | -30.88 |
| Uwharrie Charter Remote Academy* | 42.20 | 26.00 | 60.41 | -34.41 |



High School Metrics

- Most remote academies reported very low dropout rates
- Some schools had dropout rates above the state average
- Graduation outcomes varied, highlighting the importance of student supports and program design

Recommendations

As this is the first year of evaluation for Remote Academies and Remote Charter Academies, the following points are intended as constructive feedback rather than prescriptive recommendations. They highlight observations from the performance data that may guide ongoing reflection, local decision-making, and future state-level support.

Recommendations

Interpreting Performance in Context

- Schools serving higher percentages of economically disadvantaged students generally posted lower School Performance Grades (SPG). At the same time, some academies performed better than expected, while others fell well below predicted levels. Identifying and sharing effective practices from schools exceeding expectations may help inform improvement strategies for others.

Recommendations

Attendance and Student Engagement

- Daily attendance rates were strong overall, yet chronic absenteeism varied widely across schools. This variation suggests that some academies may have developed promising approaches to maintaining student engagement, which could be documented and shared more broadly.

Recommendations

Graduation and Dropout Patterns

- Most remote academies reported low dropout rates, but several showed higher-than-average levels. Understanding what differentiates schools with stronger persistence outcomes may provide insights into program design, student supports, and early intervention strategies.

Recommendations

Variability Across Schools

- The regression analysis indicates that while poverty concentration explains part of the variation in SPG, many other factors contribute to differences in outcomes. Further exploration of instructional models, support systems, and staffing structures may help clarify what drives success in remote settings.

Recommendations

Building a Longitudinal Picture

- This first-year snapshot provides only a baseline. As additional years of data are collected, trends in performance, attendance, and student outcomes will become clearer. Establishing consistent data reporting across schools will strengthen future analyses and provide more actionable insights for both policymakers and practitioners.

Questions and/or Feedback

