

Subject: Request for Review: Effect of the 2025 to 2026 Retest Policy on Charter School Growth Scores

Dear Members of the Charter Schools Review Board,

We support and lead North Carolina charter schools whose Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) growth scores fell sharply from 2025 to 2026, even as student achievement rose. We respectfully request that the Board escalate our request to the State Board of Education, and that the Board consider the following context in any review that relies on these scores.

What changed

State growth policy has changed three times in three years. On September 25, 2025, after the school year had begun, the Department of Public Instruction (DPI) limited students scoring Not Proficient to one retest. Retests given within the 10-day testing window counted toward both proficiency and growth. Summer remediation retests counted toward proficiency only. The rise in in-window retesting pushed statewide growth norms up. Schools that relied on summer remediation were then measured against those higher norms, and their own retest gains were excluded. DPI changed the rule after the school year began, and neither DPI nor schools anticipated how it would shift the statewide growth norms. As DPI has acknowledged in its guidance and in our conversations, moving the target midcycle changed the basis for every school's growth calculation. DPI did not communicate clearly or fairly how retesting would affect growth.

Additionally, from the NCDPI memo dated September 25, 2025, "For retest administered as part of a summer program, if the retest score is higher than the initial test score, the higher test score will only be applied to achievement but not towards growth analyses in the accountability model. The primary rationale is the potential challenge of matching the teacher of record."

The impact

From 2025 to 2026, 23 schools saw achievement rise while their growth index dropped by 8 or more points. That compares with 4 schools in 2024 to 2025 and 1 in 2023 to 2024. Of the 23, 15 are Title I and 13 are charter schools, even though charters make up about 7.7 percent of the state's schools. Henderson Collegiate reached a nine-year achievement high while its growth index fell 13.73 points. TMSA Triad exceeded expected growth in Math 1 for three straight years, with a growth index of 9.12 in 2024 to 2025. In 2025 to 2026 it fell to negative 5.00, while 73.2 percent of its tests scored grade level proficient. Sugar Creek Charter School experienced a very significant change in growth. In 2024–2025, SCCS had a 98.2 growth index and Exceeded Growth, placing us in the top 5% of the state. In 2025–2026, our growth measure dropped to 59.7%, and we did not meet growth.

What we have done

On September 14, 2026, our schools presented [this data](#) to DPI accountability leadership and to John White of SAS. Superintendent Mo Green found no calculation errors and declined a statewide rerun. He agreed to share our concerns with the State Board and the Accountability Task Force. Mr. White confirmed that a scoped calculation for affected schools is technically possible.

Our request

We ask the Board to:

1. Formally support and escalate our request that DPI either authorize SAS to calculate growth for affected schools with summer retests included, holding statewide parameters fixed, and release the

statewide retest counts and original test counts.

2. Consider this policy transition when reviewing any low-performing designation or charter renewal based on 2025 to 2026 growth.

A major policy change without a transition year has put several charters at risk of low-performing status for reasons unrelated to instruction. We are glad to provide our data or meet at the Board's convenience. Ultimately, the multiple patterns are significant enough to warrant further analysis before these growth results are used for high-stakes accountability decisions.

Respectfully,

Dave Machado, North Carolina Coalition for Charter Schools

Eric Sanchez, Henderson Collegiate

Ben Karaduman and Maria Mills, TMSA Public Charter Schools

Bruce Friend Pine Springs Preparatory Academy

Sandeep Aggarwal and Glenn Reaves, Sallie B. Howard

Jamie Sumter, Sugar Creek Charter School

Melissa Gaddy, [Sugar Creek Charter

Olivia Lyon, Anderson Creek Charter School

Attachments- [Presentation to NCDPI 9.14.26](#)

[TMSA's correspondence to Superintendent Greene](#)