



Grandfather Academy

October 15, 2019

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 Grandfather Academy, our achievement score for the 2018–19 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grade 8 Mathematics, Grade 8 English, Grades 8 Science, Language Arts/Reading, NC Math 1, NC Math 3 and Biology.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Grandfather Academy, 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 design and implement a procedure to identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that receive a 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."

Grandfather Academy received a School Performance Grade of F for the 2018–19 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. Grandfather Academy is a special school that provides an emotionally and behaviorally supportive environment to allow youth to experience academic success. Successful blending of individualized mental health treatment and education allows students the opportunity to succeed in academics and every area of their lives. Our student population need a specialized education environment due to having gone through adverse childhood experiences. The Academy focuses not only on helping students make satisfactory academic progress but it also helps students prepare to function successfully in a traditional school environment and the community. Typically, our students are with us for approximately 6 to 9 months and most of them are behind due to multiple living and school disruptions.

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 school leadership 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 22, 2019, where the plan will be presented for approval. The approved plan will be available for review on our website, <https://www.childrenshopealliance.org/grandfather-academy/>.

School Improvement Planning is more than a plan; it is a framework for change. Our goal is to provide educational services in an individualized manner to assist our students to achieve at the highest level possible. The plan, itself, is simply a map that identifies the school's destination and requires both decision-making and action from a variety of stakeholders to reach that destination in the most direct route. We document our school planning activities in NCStar. NCStar is a web-based tool that guides our team in charting its improvement and managing the continuous improvement process. NCStar builds accountability as well as helps schools and

stakeholders track improvement plans. NCStar requires a "culture of candor" in which Academy staff and stakeholders talk openly and honestly about practices that contribute to student learning. NCStar brings all stakeholders into the continuous improvement process by allowing "view only" capability and "real time" transparency of the school improvement plan process to all staff, agency leadership, school advisory council members, board of directors and parents/guardians. To access NCStar, visit: www.indistar.org/app/login.aspx. The username and password are GuestS17738. The material on this site will provide information about our school planning in many different areas. There are a number of key goals we have in place to help improve student performance. These include:

- To increase individual student achievement through effective academic planning and instruction.
- To increase parent, guardian, stakeholder involvement in students' academic experience.
- To increase student ability to develop and display appropriate social skills and emotional health skills within the school environment.

We hope you will closely follow your student's academic progress and work with his or her teachers 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 Grandfather Academy 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 me.

Sincerely,



Matthew Gaunt
Principal
Grandfather Academy