

SCSA Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA)

Based on Parents' Bill of Rights - SB 49; Session Law 2023-106

It is the goal of Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy to offer parents and guardians access to information regarding student achievement via the district's Parent's Guide to Student Achievement (PGSA). Should you wish to obtain paper copies of this document and its contents, you can make a request through the school administration.

<p>1a) How can my child be promoted to the next grade level?</p>	<p>The following are the relevant State and local requirements for a child to be promoted to the next grade level. The relevant part of this link is found in <u>Part 1A (pp. 15-28)</u> regarding retention, promotion, alternatives to show reading proficiency, etc. <u>N.C. Grade Level Promotion Guide</u>.</p> <p>For information about Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy's Promotion and Accountability procedures and Graduation Requirements can be found in our Parent Handbook.</p>
<p>1b) What is my child learning at school? How can a parent review these materials?</p>	<p>In North Carolina, all schools use the same Standard Course of Study, determined by the State Board of Education. These standards are the knowledge and skills students should understand by the end of each grade/course.</p> <p>The following standards can be found on the website below: Arts Education, Career Technical Education, Computer Science, English Language Arts, English Language Development, Student Success Standards, Healthful Living, Information and Technology, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Language.</p>

[NCDPI Office of Academic Standards website](#)

Local districts, schools and teachers determine how to teach these standards, including curriculum, supplementary materials, books, etc.

The list below encompasses the curriculum materials used by teachers at Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy:

- Reveal Math by MCGraw-Hill
- CKLA by Amplify
- STEMScopes by Accelerate Learning
- iReady by Curriculum Associates

HEALTHFUL LIVING: Reproductive Health and Safety

SCSA is committed to a sound school health program that provides students with accurate information and encourages them to be responsible for their own health and behavior. The school recognizes the primary role of parents/guardians in providing for the health and well-being of their children and seeks to involve parents/guardians in the school. The school health education program provided will meet all requirements established by state and federal law. The school health education program will meet all objectives in the North Carolina Standard Course of Study adopted by the State Board of Education. Curriculum materials are accessible for review [K-2](#), [3-5](#), [6-8](#).

The school health education program will be taught to students from grades K-8. In grades 4-8 students are taught Reproductive Health and Safety (Family Life Education). Every effort will be made to provide quality Family Life Education instruction for your child. Teachers will only use approved curriculum materials and supplements when teaching in the classroom.

	<p>Each school will communicate with parents prior to beginning the Reproductive Health and Safety Unit. All parents/guardians have the right to “opt out” of this unit. If you choose to exclude your child, you must do so in writing to the principal and teacher stating you do not want your child to participate. Alternate and comparable assignments will be given.</p> <p>Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy has an MTSS framework and intervention plan to support students at all stages of learning. MTSS Handbook</p>
<p>1c) How will a parent learn about my child’s progress in school or with a class?</p>	<p>Southwest Charlotte STEM Academy shares the progress of students in a variety of ways. Progress reports (every 4.5 weeks) and reports cards (every 9 weeks) are sent to parents in order to communicate student academic strengths and any areas for improvement. Feedback on conduct is also included.</p> <p>Students in grades k-3 receive Standards-Based Report Cards. Standards-Based Report Cards provide feedback on individual student’s progression toward proficiency on standards aligned to the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. Each quarter’s report cards are sent home electronically, and parents may request hard copies of these reports.</p> <p>Students receiving Tier 2 or Tier 3 intervention can expect to receive progress monitoring updates every 6-9 weeks. Students in grades 5-8 receive a Traditional Report Card calculated using a 10-point grading scale. Parents have access to their child’s grades through Infinite Campus.</p> <p>State Assessments: Individual Student Reports for end-of-grade/course tests and other state assessments are sent home to students and are also available in Infinite Campus. All NC students take end-of-grade assessments for reading and math in grades 3-8.</p>

	<p>Students take end-of-grade science assessments in grades 5 and 8.</p> <p>Benchmark Assessments are given to all students in grade k-8. SCSA uses the iReady learning platform to assess and progress monitor students in reading and mathematics. Additionally, students in grades 3-8 will be assessed using Case21 to determine progress towards grade level proficiency. The school will report on student progress 3 times per year.</p>
<p>1d) What are the qualifications of my child’s teachers?</p>	<p>Parents may look up your child’s teacher licensure status at this website Link to the licensure website.</p> <p>The licensure look up webpage does not include current employment information. Parents may need additional information (i.e., middle name or license number) to identify the teacher accurately. Substitute teachers (either short or long term) may not hold a NC teaching license.</p> <p>Any teacher who is teaching a core subject (math, science, reading) must have a college degree. The school may employ teachers who do not have a NC license. SCSA strives to employ certified teachers and strive to provide teacher support through professional development and training.</p>
<p>1e) What are the requirements for school enrollment? What are the immunizations needed or recommended for children?</p>	<p>115C-218.45. Admission requirements.</p> <p>SCSA holds a lottery annually to fill spots that will open for the coming school year. SCSA has a sibling preference and preference for students who have attended a charter school in the prior school year.</p> <p>Students applying for kindergarten must be 5 years old by September 1st of that school year.</p>

	<p>Students must live in the state of NC to apply.</p> <p>Information on required health assessments and immunizations for students are available through the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS). NCDHHS Immunizations Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expected Immunization Schedules <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Kindergarten Entry Vaccine Requirements - Seventh Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements - Twelfth Grade Entry Vaccine Requirements <p>Information about immunization exemptions</p>
<p>2a) How can a parent help their child learn and make progress?</p>	<p>Engaging with your child about school and what they are learning is pivotal to their learning process.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Ask questions daily about your child’s school day. ● Inquire about topics and assignments they are learning. ● Connect with teachers to understand your child’s progress. ● Ask the teachers how you can help your child learn. ● Attend different events at your child’s school to stay connected and learn how to support them. <p>Parent Guides for Academic Standards: The following grade level guides contain information to support parents and caregivers with understanding the North Carolina Standard Course of Study. The purpose of these guides is to inform parents about the standards, as well as provide useful strategies to incorporate at home.</p>

	<p>Parent Guides for ELA Parent Guide for ELD Math Parent Guides: K-5, 6-8 Social Studies Parent Guides Science Parent Guides</p> <p>Reading and Literacy Support: This following site provides resources for families to practice and reinforce important literacy skills with their children: Amplify Parent Resources</p> <p>Home activities, printables, and games to support reading and literacy are also available at North Carolina’s Digital Children’s Reading Initiative (DCRI). These activities include the following topics, Pre-K-Grade 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Phonemic awareness (2) Phonics (3) Vocabulary (4) Fluency (5) Comprehension (6) Oral language <p>Printable activities will be made available for students who do not have digital access at home and may be provided to all students as a supplement to digital resources. For paper copies, please contact <i>(Insert contact name and contact information)</i>. DCRI Printables for Families</p>
<p>2b) How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?</p>	<p>PBIS stands for Positive Behavior Intervention Support. PBIS is a school wide framework that aims to establish school wide behavior expectations. PBIS recognizes and rewards positive behavior that students exhibit and provides reteaching and intervention when expectations are not being met.</p>

	<p>SCSA provides daily SEL opportunities through the PBIS framework, classroom lessons, various community partnerships and by fostering a positive school climate.</p> <p>SCSA offers students the opportunity to develop leadership skills and host a SAVE Promise Club for Middle School Students.</p> <p>SCSA strives to provide a learning experience that helps students to acquire academic, durable skills and mindsets to thrive in college and career settings.</p> <p>Grade level specific resources, including developmentally appropriate milestones can be found in the following resource repository NC Portrait of a Graduate - Durable Skills.</p> <p>Parents are encouraged to partner with their student services teams in their work to support academic achievement, develop interpersonal skills, strengthen mental wellness, and explore career activities after graduation. School counseling, psychological services, and social work staff encourage students to learn skills in emotional regulation to support healthy decision-making skills and emotional development.</p>
<p>2c) How can a parent help their child develop citizenship, social skills and respect for others?</p>	<p>SCSA embeds Portrait of a Graduate skills in the classroom and school setting. These durable skills were developed by NCDPI and will support a child’s understanding of citizenship, social skills and respect for others.</p> <p>Grade level specific resources, including developmentally appropriate milestones can be found in the following resource repository NC Portrait of a Graduate - Durable Skills.</p>

<p>2d) How can a parent strengthen communication with the school/teacher?</p>	<p>Communication with parents and families is very important to us. Parent Square is the primary way that we communicate with parents in the community on timely information. Families can also use this platform to communicate to the teachers, staff and administrators through the messaging application. Contact information, school policies and handbooks, special programming and links can be found on the school website. www.scstemacademy.org</p> <p>The following are NCDPI developed parent guides that provide suggestions for building strong relationships with your child’s teacher and supporting communication between home and school.</p> <p>Building Strong Relationships with Your Child’s Teacher (NC Rethink Education Program) How You Can Use Questions to Support Your Child’s Learning (NC Rethink Education Program)</p>
<p>3) What services are available for parents and their children?</p>	<p>SCSA provides paid Before and After Care for families outside of the regular school day. Information about this service can be found on our website at ww.mcstemacademy.org under the parents tab.</p> <p>SCSA does also provide free after school tutoring to selected students throughout the school year.</p> <p>Parents can attend one of our family curriculum nights where they can learn about how to support their students at home. Information about these nights is advertised on Parent Square throughout the year.</p>

<p>4) What are opportunities for parents to participate with school?</p>	<p>SCSA has a Parent Partnership Committee with various subcommittees dedicated to providing fun and educational opportunities for students and families and to support teachers through donations, volunteering and teacher appreciation activities.</p> <p>Parents who volunteer at the school will first undergo a criminal background screening before being permitted to attend field trips, classroom activities or any other capacity in which they interact with students in a school function.</p>
<p>5. What are the rigorous academic programs available to my child? How can I learn more about them?</p>	<p>Academically and/or Intellectually Gifted (AIG): In NC, school districts must identify and serve academically or intellectually gifted (AIG) K-12 students. These are students who are performing, or have the potential of performing, at high levels of accomplishment in intellectual and/or specific academic areas, such as reading and/or math when compared with other students of their age, or in their grade level, experience, or environment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Differentiated curriculum and instruction with flexible student groups; ● Accelerated opportunities ● Enrichment experiences ● Other opportunities for extension of content standard. <p>Honors Level Courses: SCSA provides Honors Level Course to students who consistently perform at mastery level.</p> <p>Honors courses typically have a faster pace than standard level courses. They offer additional rigor, complexity and creativity than standard level courses.</p> <p>Math 1: Students in 8th grade may qualify to take a High School Level, Math 1, course. This course qualifies any student who passes the class a high school credit.</p>

<p>6) What school choices are available for my child?</p>	<p>Charter Schools Charter schools are public schools of choice that are authorized by the State Board of Education and operated by independent non-profit boards of directors. State and local tax dollars are the primary funding sources for charter schools, which have open enrollment and cannot discriminate in admissions, associate with any religion or religious group, or charge-tuition. Charter schools operate with freedom from many of the regulations that govern district schools, but charter schools are held accountable through the State assessment and accountability system.</p> <p>If you are interested in NC charter schools, visit NC charter school for information, resources, and contacts.</p> <p>Nonpublic Education and Scholarship Grants Nonpublic education is overseen by the NC Department of Administration.</p> <p>For a list of private schools, visit this NC Private Schools.</p> <p>For information on how to start a homeschool visit: Homeschool Information</p> <p>Scholarship grant programs/voucher information is available via the NC State Education Assistance Authority</p>
<p>7) What rights do students with disabilities have based on the law?</p>	<p>For students suspected of or identified with a disability by the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), the following links provide important information regarding the procedural safeguards available to ensure a free, appropriate, public education.</p> <p>Exceptional Children Programs/Rights of Students With Disabilities</p>

[Parents Rights and Responsibilities in Special Education: Notice of Procedural Safeguards Parent Rights Handbook \(Spanish\)](#)

The Exceptional Children Division of North Carolina Department of Public Instruction is looking for all children and youth ages birth through 21 with special needs who may not be receiving the help needed. These include children and youth with physical disabilities, emotional disabilities and/or intellectual disabilities, and children and youth with suspected disabilities who are highly mobile, migrant and/or homeless.

If your child has a disability, or you suspect that he/she may have a disability please contact your child's school or the Exceptional Children Director
cforbes@scstemacademy.org