

SCHOOL REPORT CARDS

Randolph Schools look ahead, despite dreary marks

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Less than ideal test scores have not deterred Randolph County Schools officials who plan to keep moving forward post-COVID-19.

This is according to Randolph County Schools Superintendent Dr. Stephen Gainey days after North Carolina released its annual report on school performance for the 2021-2022 school year.

“The test results for the 2021-2022 school year will become our school system’s new baseline,” Gainey said. “As a result, our school system will work to move forward from this baseline, in terms of continuous improvement in the coming years with regard to the academic performance of our schools.”

Every year the North Carolina Department of Education grades the performances of elementary, middle, and high schools county by county.

“School Performance Grades are calculated for all schools as required by the North Carolina Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan,” reads information from the study. “A-F letter grades are assigned to all public schools in the state.”

The grades are based on the combination of two criteria. The first is based on a school’s English, math, reading, and science assessments while the other is based on school growth. These two factors are weighted with the former accounting for 80% of the final grade and the latter accounting for the remaining 20%.

“These grades are used to identify schools in need of Comprehensive Support and Improvement,” reads the study. “Also, as required by state law, School Performance Grades and a school’s growth status determines whether a school or district is low performing.”

Among the 31 schools represented in Randolph County’s school district, only two scored above the C grade.

Hopewell Elementary School received a grade of B. Randolph Early College High School was the sole school in the district to receive an A grade.

“While it was very difficult, I am very proud of the efforts of our staff members, students, parents, board members, and community members to keep our schools open for in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible since August 2020,” Gainey said.

In total two schools received a grade of F while every other received grades of Cs and Ds.

Gainey said complications from the pandemic played a part.

“Without a doubt, the challenges associated with the COVID-19 pandemic created obstacles with regard to student learning,” Gainey said. “Nonetheless, I remain very proud of the efforts of our staff members, students, parents, board members, and community members to keep our schools open for in-person instruction to the greatest extent possible since August 2020.”