



McDowell Virtual Academy

346 W McDowell Jr High School Rd
Marion, NC 28752
828-652-3390 ext. 310
Eve Walker, Coordinator of MVA

November 2, 2023

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 McDowell Virtual Academy, our achievement score for the 2022-2023 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grades 6–8 Mathematics, Grades 6–8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grade 8 Science, NC Math 1, NC Math 3, English II, and Biology.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that McDowell Virtual 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 identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that earn an overall 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."

McDowell Virtual Academy received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of Did Not Meet for the 2022–2023 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 or the performance of a school. McDowell Virtual School showed several areas of improvement including growth in Math 1, Biology, 7th grade math, and 8th grade reading and science.

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 superintendent and other central office administrators in the district 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, Dec. 4th, 6pm at 334 S. Main St., Marion where the plan will be presented for approval. The final plan will be available for review www.mcdowell.k12.nc.us/mcdowell-virtual-academy

One of our top priorities for 2023–2024 is to improve our School Performance Grade. There are a number of key items we will focus on to help improve student performance. These include:

- Team Developed Standard-aligned Units
- Evidence-based Instruction to Meet the Needs of All Students
- Regular Parent/Guardian Communication to increase parent engagement and educational support
- Mastery of Edmentum for delivering standard-aligned activities and assessments to all students at MVA.

We hope you will closely follow your student's academic progress and work with his or her teacher(s) 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 McDowell Virtual 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 at 828-652-3390 ext 310 or email me at eve.walker@mcdowell.k12.nc.us.

Sincerely,



Eve R. Walker

Coordinator of McDowell Virtual Academy