

# Virtual Public Charter School Pilot Program

*Final Report  
SL 2014-100 (SB 744)*

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# Overview

- Background and Legislation
- Student Enrollment and Withdrawals
- Instructional Programming
- Student Performance
- Implementation, Administration, and Funding
- Recommendations

# Background

- North Carolina Session Law 2014-100 (SB 744, Budget Bill) required the State Board of Education (SBE) to establish a pilot program to authorize the operation of two virtual charter schools serving grades K-12.
- The legislation authorized the pilot program to begin with the 2015-2016 school year and continue for a period of four years, ending with the 2018-2019 school year.
- Prior to the end of the four-year pilot, Session Law 2018-5 (SB 99, Budget Bill) extended the pilot program for an additional four years. Session Law 2022-59 (SB 671) authorized the virtual charter schools pilot program to continue **through the 2024-2025 school year**.
- This report satisfies the final reporting requirement of a November 15, 2022 report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee.

# Pilot Legislation

- Pilot legislation outlines several requirements governing everything from enrollment to funding.
- The two virtual charters are subject to Article 14A of Chapter 115C with a few exceptions such as enrollment caps and teacher ratio mandates.

# Enrollment

- Legislation caps enrollment at 2,592 beginning in the fourth year of the pilot (2018 school year). Also allows SBE to waive the max student enrollment beginning in 2018.
- Specific enrollment allowances were made through COVID related legislation.

# Enrollment

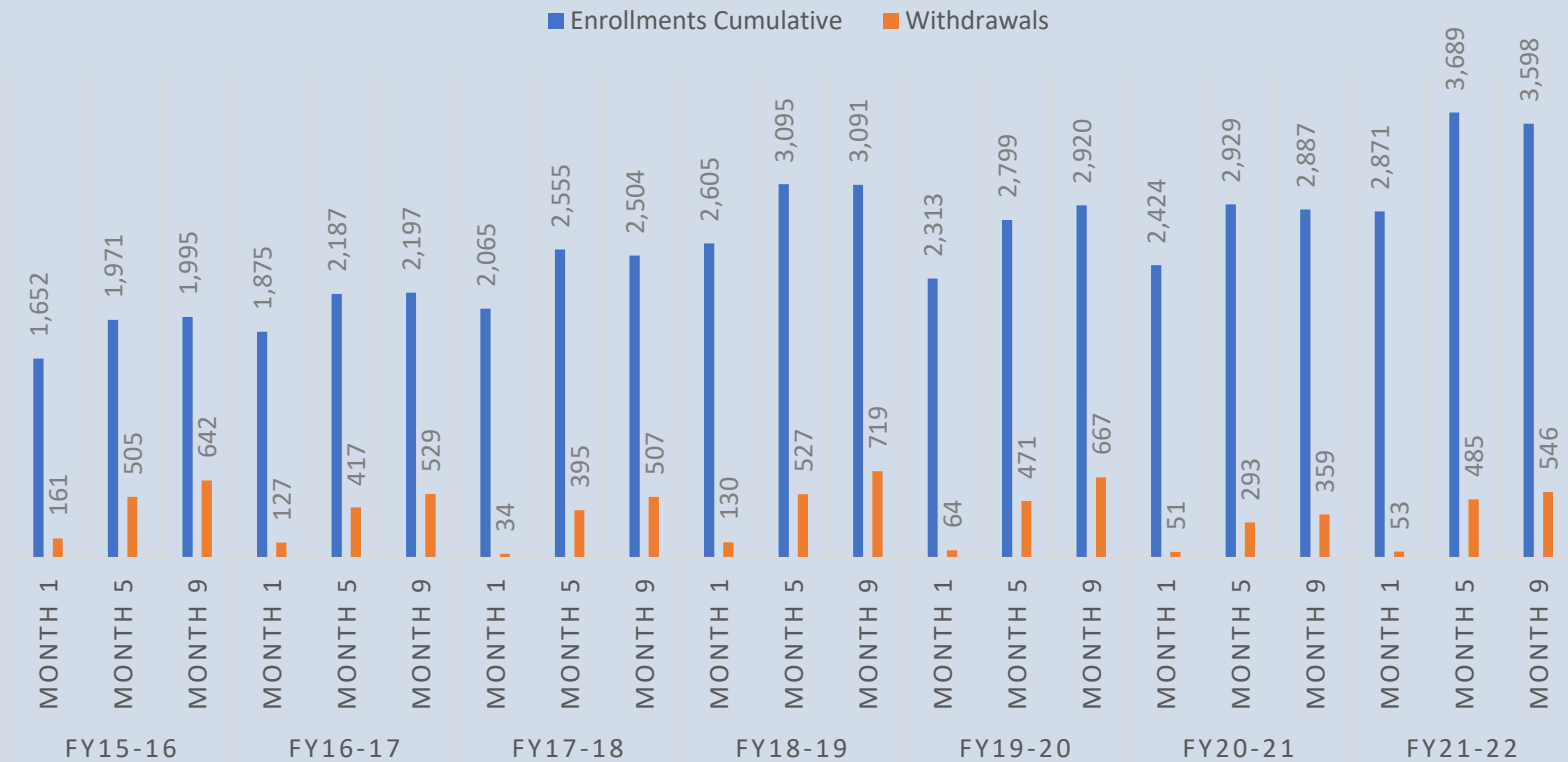
- The pandemic-related enrollment expansions were not extended past the 2021-2022 school year. On August 4, 2022, at its regular meeting, the SBE adopted a motion regarding further enrollment expansions.
- **North Carolina Cyber Academy was permitted up to 2,705 students and North Carolina Virtual Academy was permitted up to 3,425 students.** The motion included the condition that no new students may be enrolled during the 2022-2023 school year to replace withdrawals, unless and until the enrollment at either school drops to the statutory cap of 2,592.
- By operation of law, with further action by the General Assembly, the maximum enrollment cap of 2,592 will resume for the 2022-2023 school year.

# Enrollment: NC Cyber Academy

- Over the course of the pilot program, NCCA has grown from a student enrollment (Membership Last Day, Month 9) of 1,353 to 2,595.
- **Cumulative enrollment increase of 91.8%.**
- The cumulative withdrawals (Month 9) have varied over time with a low of 359 withdrawals in the 2020-2021 school year and a high of 719 withdrawals in the 2018-2019 school year.

# Enrollment: NC Cyber Academy

ENROLLMENTS AND WITHDRAWALS - NC CYBER ACADEMY



# Enrollment: NC Virtual Academy

- Over the course of the pilot program, NCVA has grown from a student enrollment (Membership Last Day, Month 9) of 1,283 to 3,116.
- **Cumulative enrollment increase of 142.8%.**
- The cumulative withdrawals (Month 9) have varied over time with a low of 547 withdrawals in the 2020-2021 school year and a high of 650 withdrawals in the 2018-2019 school year.

# Enrollment: NC Virtual Academy

## ENROLLMENTS AND WITHDRAWALS - NC VIRTUAL ACADEMY



# Instructional Programming

- Students receive both synchronous and asynchronous instruction.
- Average 2-3 hours synchronous instruction. Time online varies depending on student need and efficiency.
- Classes are offered in honors/AP.
- Wide variety of electives offered at each school.

# Student Performance and Accountability Data

- Subject to the same accountability requirements as all brick and mortar charter schools:
  - A charter school shall conduct the student assessments required by the State Board of Education. § 115C-218.85(a)(3).
  - If a charter school earned an overall school performance grade of D or F, the charter school shall provide notice of the grade in writing to the parent or guardian of all students enrolled in that school. § 115C-218.65.
  - Reading Proficiency and Student Promotion requirements. § 115C-218.85(b).

# Student Performance and Accountability Data

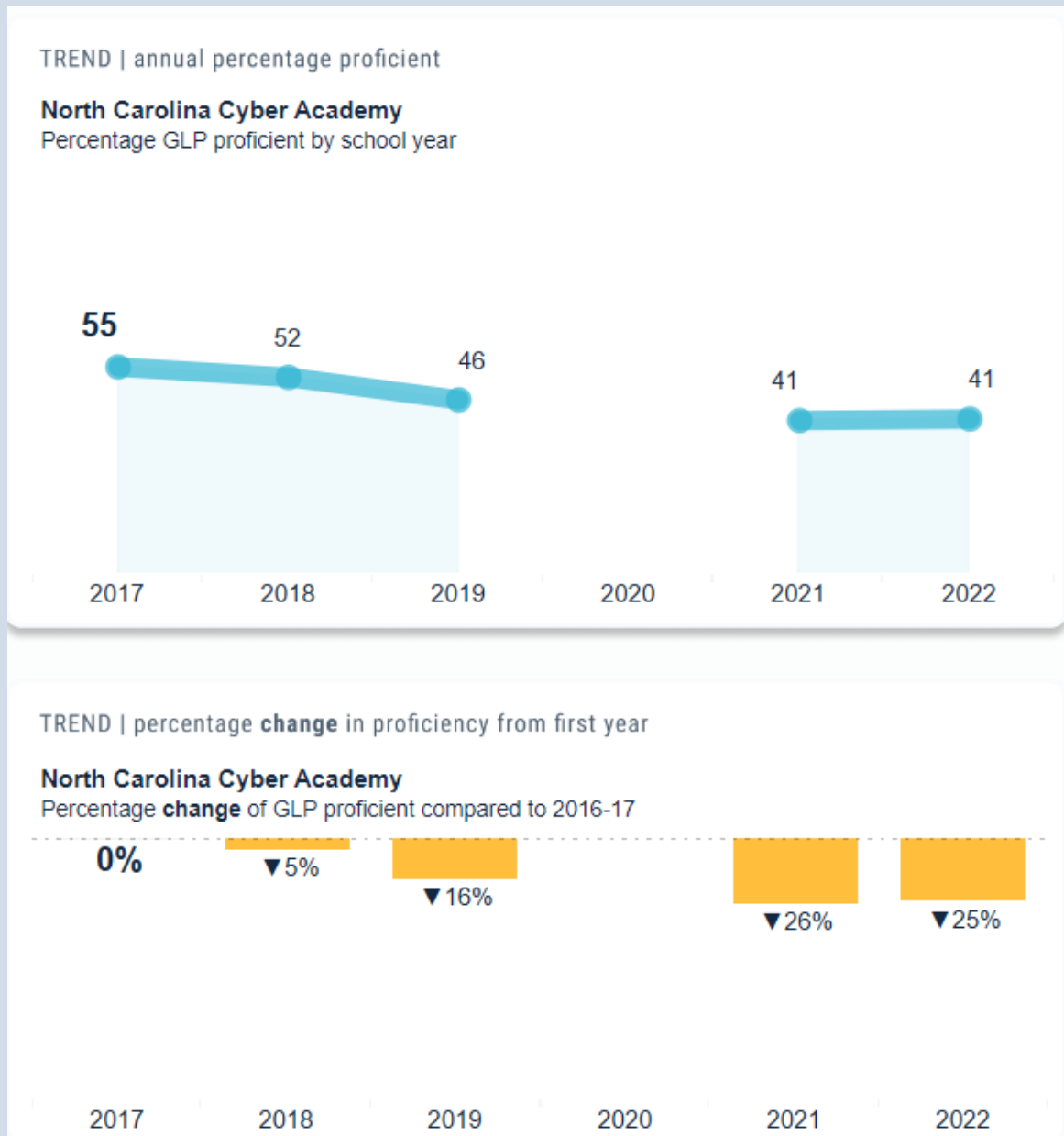
- **Low-performing charter schools** are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" as defined by G.S. § 115C-83.15.
- A **continually low-performing charter school** is a charter school that has been designated as low-performing for at least two of three consecutive years.
- For the entirety of the pilot program both virtual charter schools have earned an overall school performance grade of D and a growth score of “not met expected growth” and therefore are continually low-performing charter schools. 115C-218.94(a)

# Academic Data – NC Cyber Academy

	<b>Performance Grade</b>	<b>Growth Status</b>	<b>Growth Index</b>
2021-2022	D	Not Met	-11.83
2018-2019	D	Not Met	-17.48
2017-2018	D	Not Met	-13.13
2016-2017	D	Not Met	-10.69
2015-2016	D	Not Met	-16.26

# Performance Trends – NC Cyber Academy

## Grade Level Proficiency

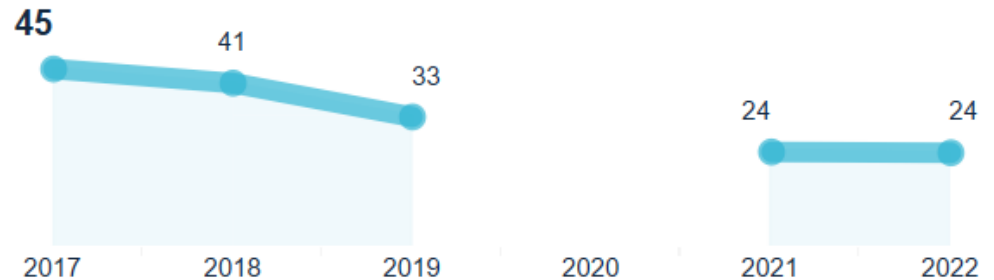


# Performance Trends – NC Cyber Academy

## College and Career Ready

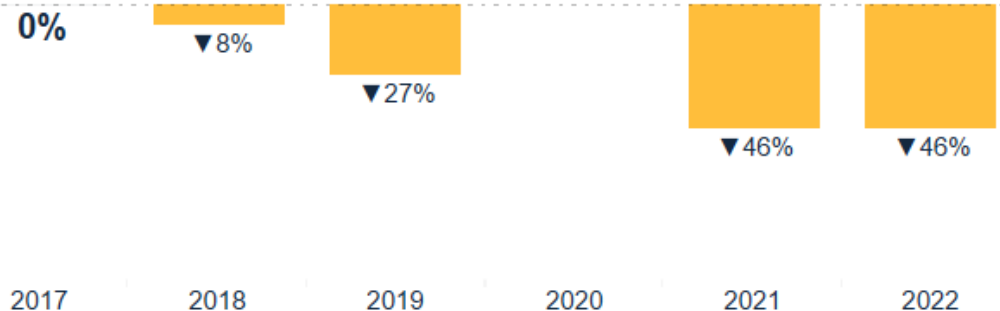
TREND | annual percentage proficient

**North Carolina Cyber Academy**  
Percentage CCR proficient by school year



TREND | percentage **change** in proficiency from first year

**North Carolina Cyber Academy**  
Percentage **change** of CCR proficient compared to 2016-17



# Subgroups – NC Cyber Academy (21-22)

Subgroup	Subgroup Letter Grade (SLG)	Subgroup Performance Score (SPS)
American Indian	I	
Asian	B	82
Black	F	39
Hispanic	D	45
Two or More Races	D	45
White	D	47
Economically Disadvantaged	F	37
English Learner	F	36
Students With Disabilities	F	31

# Academic Data – NC Virtual Academy

	<b>Performance Grade</b>	<b>Growth Status</b>	<b>Growth Index</b>
2021-2022	D	Not Met	-8.29
2018-2019	D	Not Met	-17.48
2017-2018	D	Not Met	-13.13
2016-2017	D	Not Met	-10.69
2015-2016	D	Not Met	-16.26

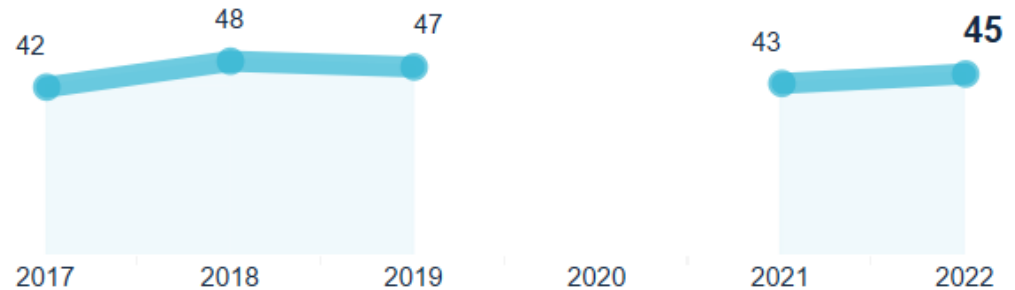
# Performance Trends – NC Virtual Academy

## Grade Level Proficiency

TREND | annual percentage proficient

### NC Virtual Academy

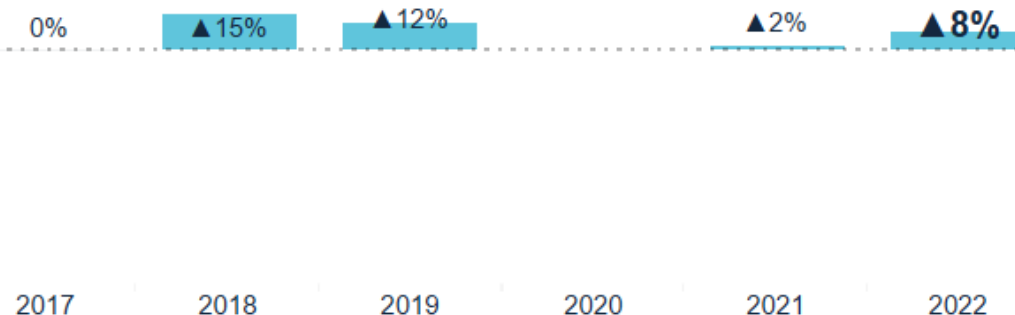
Percentage GLP proficient by school year



TREND | percentage **change** in proficiency from first year

### NC Virtual Academy

Percentage **change** of GLP proficient compared to 2016-17



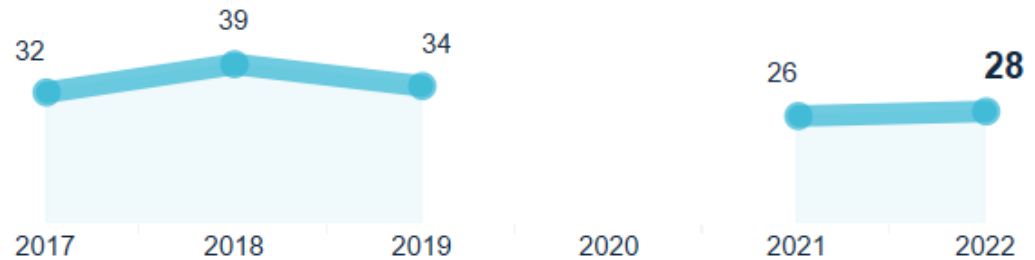
# Performance Trends – NC Virtual Academy

## College and Career Ready

TREND | annual percentage proficient

### NC Virtual Academy

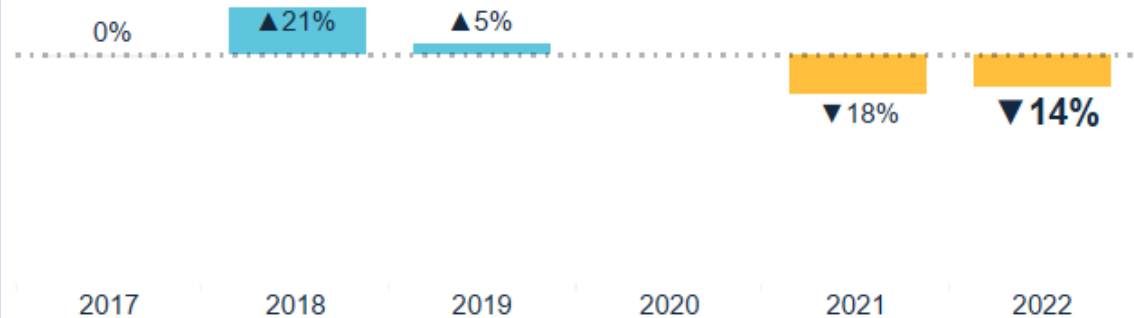
Percentage CCR proficient by school year



TREND | percentage change in proficiency from first year

### NC Virtual Academy

Percentage change of CCR proficient compared to 2016-17



# Subgroups – NC Virtual Academy (21-22)

<b>Subgroup</b>	<b>Subgroup Letter Grade (SLG)</b>	<b>Subgroup Performance Score (SPS)</b>
American Indian	I	
Asian	C	61
Black	D	40
Hispanic	D	53
Two or More Races	D	53
White	D	54
Economically Disadvantaged	D	44
English Learner	D	44
Students With Disabilities	F	29

# Comparative Data – NC Cyber Academy and State

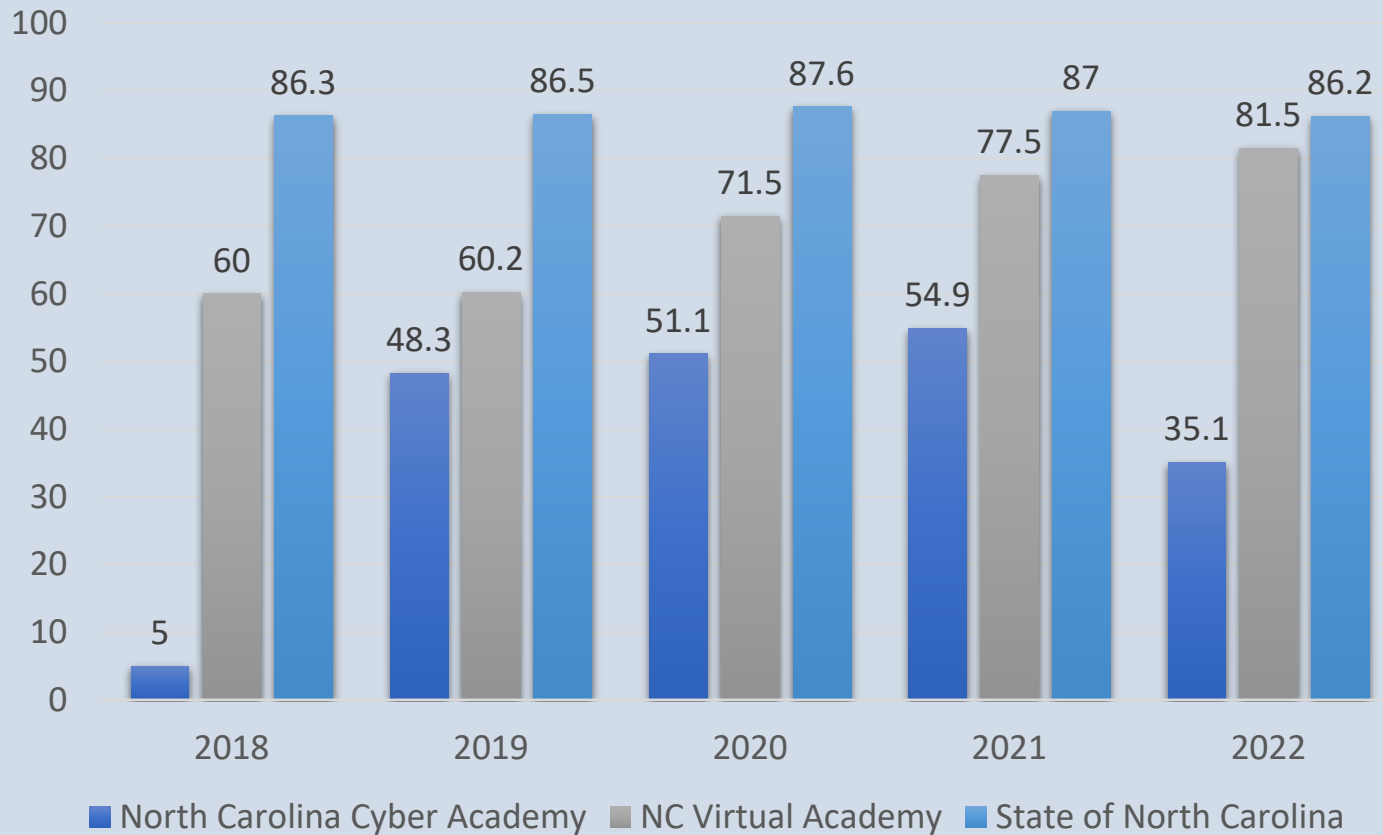
	Grade Level Proficiency			College and Career Readiness		
	School	State	+/-	School	State	+/-
2021-2022	41.2	51.4	-10.2	24.1	34.0	-9.9
2018-2019	46.2	58.8	-12.6	33.0	44.5	-11.5
2017-2018	52.1	58.8	-6.7	41.4	49.2	-7.8
2016-2017	54.8	59.2	-4.4	44.9	49.2	-4.3
2015-2016	51.8	58.3	-6.5	41.6	48.8	-7.2

# Comparative Data – NC Virtual Academy and State

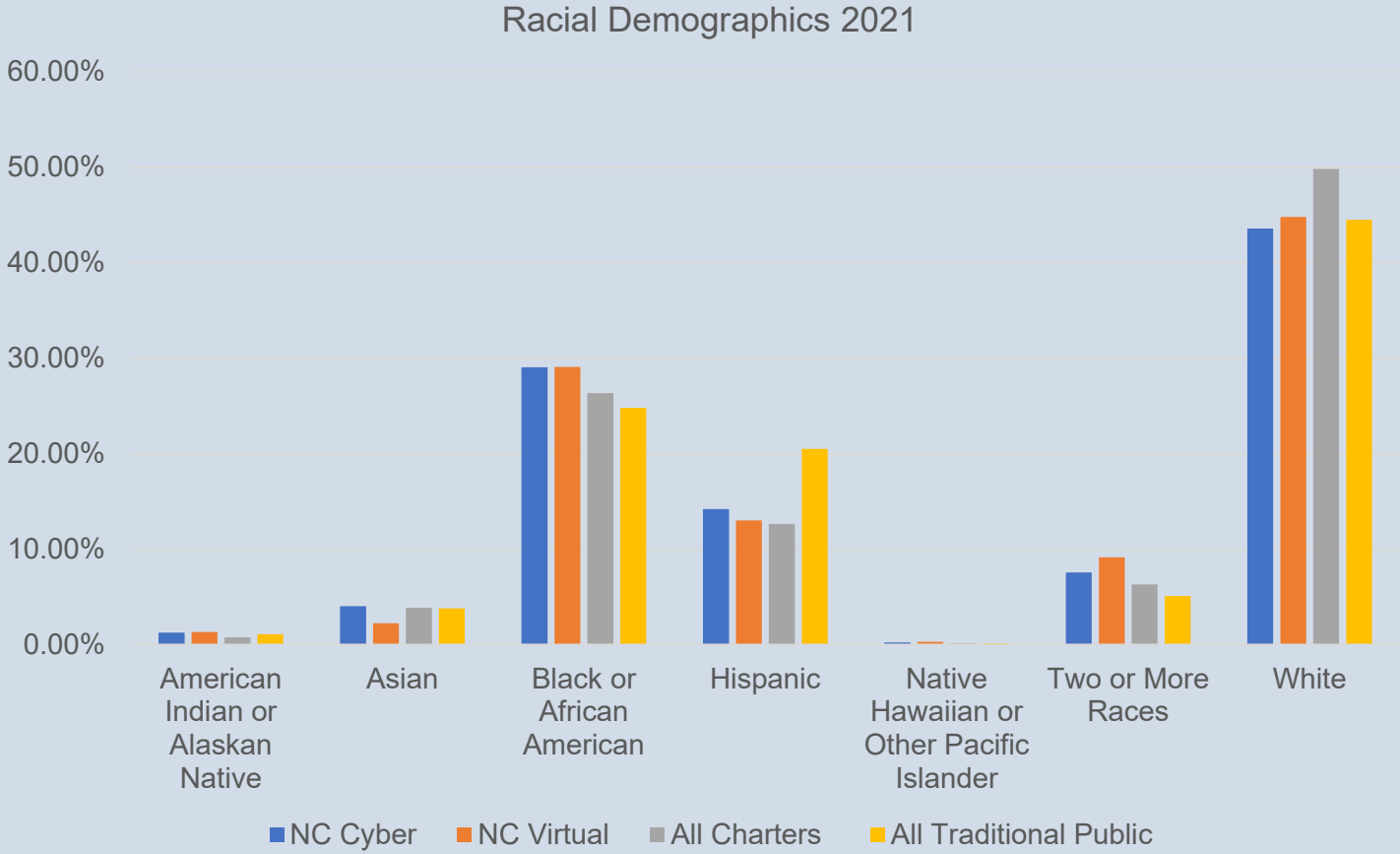
	Grade Level Proficiency			College and Career Readiness		
	School	State	+/-	School	State	+/-
2021-2022	44.8	51.4	-6.6	27.5	34.0	-6.5
2018-2019	46.5	58.8	-12.3	33.5	44.5	-11.0
2017-2018	47.9	58.8	-10.9	38.7	49.2	-10.5
2016-2017	41.6	59.2	-17.6	32.0	49.2	-17.2
2015-2016	44.5	58.3	-13.8	35.0	48.8	-13.8

# Graduation Rates

## Four Year Graduation Rates



# Student Demographics



# Student Demographics –EDS

<b>Snapshot Date</b>	<b>NCCA</b>	<b>NCVA</b>	<b>All Charters</b>	<b>All Traditional Publics</b>
<b>12/1/2016</b>	46.36%	66.65%	33.75%	50.32%
<b>12/1/2017</b>	17.65%	24.39%	23.17%	44.40%
<b>12/1/2018</b>	17.68%	26.97%	23.48%	46.68%
<b>12/1/2019</b>	13.01%	21.60%	20.75%	41.37%
<b>12/1/2020</b>	27.12%	7.28%	18.85%	38.03%
<b>12/1/2021</b>	52.53%	50.52%	25.29%	36.58%

# Student Demographics- SWD

<b>Snapshot Date</b>	<b>NCCA</b>	<b>NCVA</b>	<b>All Charters</b>	<b>All Traditional Publics</b>
<b>12/1/2016</b>	9.99%	10.61%	9.79%	12.26%
<b>12/1/2017</b>	10.50%	13.63%	10.14%	12.29%
<b>12/1/2018</b>	11.88%	12.83%	10.24%	12.34%
<b>12/1/2019</b>	12.78%	13.34%	10.59%	12.41%
<b>12/1/2020</b>	13.93%	11.49%	10.20%	12.26%
<b>12/1/2021</b>	14.05%	11.00%	10.33%	12.27%

# State Funding NC Cyber Academy

	<b>FY15-16</b>	<b>FY16-17</b>	<b>FY17-18</b>	<b>FY18-19</b>	<b>FY19-20</b>	<b>FY20-21</b>	<b>FY21-22</b>
<b>Total State Funding</b>	<b>7,650,416</b>	<b>9,809,373</b>	<b>12,179,237</b>	<b>15,341,079</b>	<b>14,381,277</b>	<b>15,622,906</b>	<b>20,313,499</b>

# State Funding NC Virtual Academy

	<b>FY15-16</b>	<b>FY16-17</b>	<b>FY17-18</b>	<b>FY18-19</b>	<b>FY19-20</b>	<b>FY20-21</b>	<b>FY21-22</b>
<b>Total State Funding</b>	<b>7,543,164</b>	<b>9,514,842</b>	<b>11,349,401</b>	<b>14,510,437</b>	<b>16,522,523</b>	<b>19,595,091</b>	<b>22,069,147</b>

# Federal Funding NC Cyber Academy

	<b>FY15-16</b>	<b>FY16-17</b>	<b>FY17-18</b>	<b>FY18-19</b>	<b>FY19-20</b>	<b>FY20-21</b>	<b>FY21-22</b>
<b>Total Federal Funding</b>	<b>378,065</b>	<b>485,382</b>	<b>675,992</b>	<b>813,453</b>	<b>995,536</b>	<b>1,076,530</b>	<b>5,495,245</b>

# Federal Funding NC Virtual Academy

	<b>FY15-16</b>	<b>FY16-17</b>	<b>FY17-18</b>	<b>FY18-19</b>	<b>FY19-20</b>	<b>FY20-21</b>	<b>FY21-22</b>
<b>Total Federal Funding</b>	<b>462,808</b>	<b>463,349</b>	<b>824,089</b>	<b>1,658,632</b>	<b>1,635,398</b>	<b>3,001,055</b>	<b>4,889,430</b>

# Recommendation

- 2020 recommendations
  - CSAB presentations
  - Surveys re student experience
  - Disaggregated data
- New recommendation
  - Virtual Charters become part of the standard charter school renewal process.



# **PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA**

State Board of Education | Department of Public Instruction