

Office of Charter Schools: School Improvement Overview

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Purpose and Role within OCS

Purpose:

Analyze academic data; monitor and support low-performing charter schools. Conduct site visits and provide feedback, assist with review of School Improvement Plans through NCStar.

OCS Role:

Elevate support for low-performing charter schools, utilize indicators of distress for early identification of struggling schools, collaborate across workflows to develop prevention strategies.

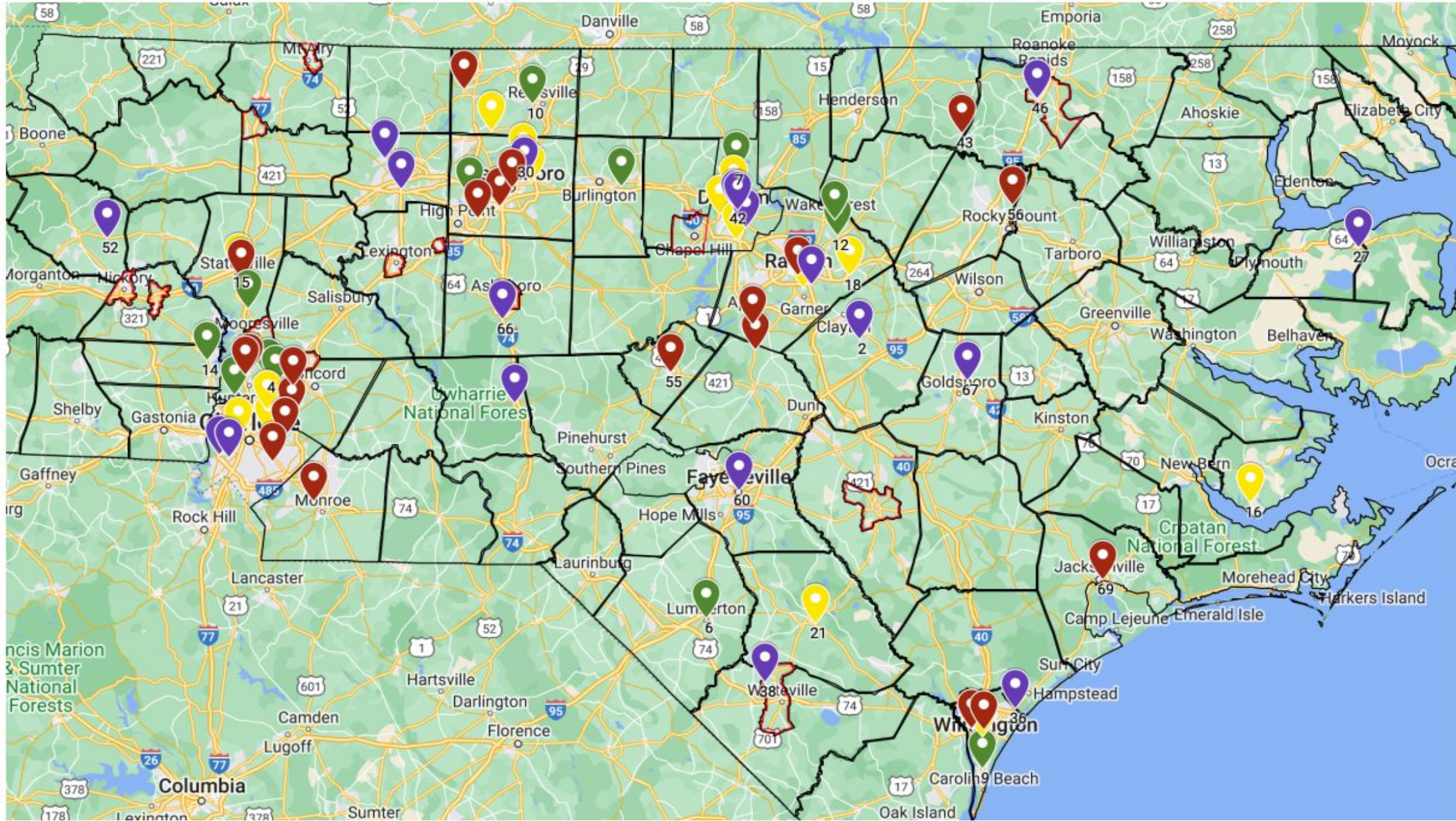
§ 115C-218.94. Identification of low-performing and continually low-performing charter schools.

- (a) Identification of **Low-Performing Charter Schools**. – The State Board of Education shall identify low-performing charter schools on an annual basis. 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.
- (b) Identification of **continually Low-Performing Charter Schools**. – The State Board of Education shall identify continually low-performing charter schools on an annual basis. A continually low-performing charter school is a charter school that has been designated by the State Board as **low-performing for at least two of three consecutive years**. (2016-79,s.1.7(a); 2017,s. 7.26(i).)

LP/CLP Schools At A Glance

23-24 Data

Category	# of Schools	% of Open Charters
LP	51	25%
CLP	55	26%
CLP (not LP)	18	
Total LP or CLP	69	33%



Glimpse of the Process

Site Visit Process

1. **LP/CLP Designation List** released and LP/CLP **schools are notified.**
2. Utilize **internal flow chart** that helps narrow the list of schools who will receive a site visit.
3. CLP site visits occur from **October through December.**
4. Upon completion of site visits, schools are asked to complete a **survey.**
5. **CLP school presentations** are scheduled for **CSRB** meetings between February and April.

School Leadership Reflection: Pre-Visit

- What are your academic/instructional **bright spots**?
- Is there a written document articulating the **school-wide model of instruction**?
- What pieces of your school **improvement plan** have you **implemented**, and will we be able to **observe**?
- Which classrooms have **high performing teachers**? **New teachers**?
- What **current student performance data** can you share to show how you are working towards academic goals?

Classroom Observation Form - Internal

Student tasks are geared towards posted or stated learning objective:

- Students have definition of mastery
- Questions/tasks yield data that allows teacher to assess student progress
- Students have opportunities to express learning through writing and/or explanations using academic language

Student voice prioritized:

- Turn and Talk/Think-Pair-Share/Cold Calling
- Small Groups
- Classroom Discussion
- Written Reflection

Differentiates lesson to meet needs of all students:

- Adapted instruction to challenge or support
- Adapted materials to challenge or support
- Adapted assessments to challenge or support

Instructional practices based on high expectations for all:

- Depth and quality of work/responses
- Higher order thinking
- Teachers/students use academic vocabulary
- Evidence is used to support claims
- Teacher communicates participation expectations
- Students apply information to new situations or to create original work

School Leadership Reflection Following Classroom Visits

Professional Development

- How is PD executed?
- Who decides what PD to offer?
- Modeling in real time?

Observation and Feedback

- How often do teachers receive feedback?
- Does instruction change because of feedback?
- How do you know students are on the road to mastery?

Curriculum, Instruction, Assessment, Data Informed Practices

- Is there a process for data analysis?
- What assessments or student work samples are used?
- How does instruction change as a result of assessment data?

Site Visit Feedback Form Components

School Description

- Grade Levels Served
- Mission Statement
- Unique Design Elements

Purpose & Methodology

- Purpose of Visit
- Length of Visit
- Focus Groups Included
- Documents Reviewed

School Characteristics

- Enrollment Trends
- Academic Data
- School Performance Grade & Growth
- GLP Comparability

Summary of Findings

- Areas of Strength
- Recommended Areas for Growth
- Required Actions
- Suggested Resources

Site Visit Survey Results

Suggestions/Feedback for OCS

- The team was able to **provide us with very specific feedback for our improvement goals** that were helpful and **increased our confidence in the direction we are heading.**
- Planning for a **writing PD and increased observations**
- We are following their advice to put a heavy **focus on curriculum and instructional support for high school math.** The visit and feedback also led us to begin the process of **improving our vertical alignment across K-12.** This effort has already started with **vertical alignment teams formed** and having **already held a couple of meetings.**
- No particular suggestions. **Perhaps a virtual follow-up at the end of the school year** to discuss progress.
- The **team did a great job** and made us **feel supported.**

Moving Forward

- Change in workflow lead
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- Continuous improvement/alignment of processes
- Continue researching innovative/effective approaches for LP school support
- Improve data metric table provided to schools
- Offer virtual visit to all schools who received a visit

Questions/Feedback?

School Presentations

Presentations

Internal process to identify schools to present:

- March: 3 schools
- April: 5 schools

Guidance provided:

- 15 minutes w/5 min for CSRB questions
- 6 slides: Academic Data & Trends; Moving Towards Success; Current Progress

March 10

- **Oak Hill Charter School (LP/CLP), Site Visit conducted 12/11/24**
- **Arapahoe Charter School (CLP, not LP)**
- **PreEminent Charter School (LP/CLP), Site Visit conducted 11/14/24**

April 7

- **TMSA Charlotte** (CLP, not LP) w/update on relocation to Valor Prep
- **KIPP Charlotte** (CLP, not LP), **Durham** (CLP/LP) site visit conducted 11/20/24, **Halifax** (CLP/LP) site visit conducted 11/19/24 w/update on Halifax/Gaston process
- **Classical Charter School of Whiteville** (CLP/LP) site visit conducted 10/28/24

