

AGGIE ACADEMY LABORATORY SCHOOL

2026-27 PARENT'S GUIDE FOR STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Partnering for Scholar Success

North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University
College of Education
Aggie Academy
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A MESSAGE TO OUR AGGIE ACADEMY FAMILIES

Dear Aggie Academy Families,

At Aggie Academy, we believe that **scholar achievement is a shared responsibility**.

Our teachers and staff are committed to providing rigorous, innovative, research-based instruction. Our families are essential partners in that work. When school and home communicate regularly, establish high expectations, monitor progress, and respond quickly when a scholar needs additional support, our scholars are better positioned to succeed.

Aggie Academy is a public laboratory school of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University serving scholars in **grades 3-5**. As a laboratory school, we have the unique opportunity to combine high-quality instruction with the resources, expertise, research, and innovation of a doctoral research university ([N.C. A&T Aggie Academy | North Carolina A&T State University](#)).

This Parent's Guide for Student Achievement is designed to help families understand:

- What scholars are expected to learn
- How Aggie Academy measures academic progress
- How parents can monitor their child's progress
- What families can do at home to strengthen learning
- How promotion and retention decisions are made
- What instructional materials are being used
- What academic and student-support services are available
- How families can participate in the life of Aggie Academy
- How parents can communicate questions, concerns, and suggestions to the school

We want every family to understand one simple message:

You are not simply informed about your child's education. You are a partner in it.

I. UNDERSTANDING AGGIE ACADEMY

Aggie Academy is a public, free laboratory school operated by North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University in partnership with Guilford County Schools. The school serves

scholars in grades 3 - 5. Guilford County Schools provides transportation, meals, and support services to Aggie Academy ([N.C. A&T Aggie Academy | North Carolina A&T State University](#)). Our STEM-focused laboratory-school model provides scholars with access to innovative learning experiences and allows the University to engage in research, demonstration, student support, and the preparation and professional learning of educators ([North Carolina General Assembly](#)). Aggie Academy's instructional program is grounded in the **North Carolina Standard Course of Study (NCSCOS)**. The North Carolina Standard Course of Study establishes the academic content standards that public-school scholars are expected to know and demonstrate by the end of each grade or course. ([NC DPI](#))

II. WHAT YOUR CHILD IS EXPECTED TO LEARN

Aggie Academy provides instruction aligned with the North Carolina Standard Course of Study in the academic areas appropriate for grades 3-5, including:

- English Language Arts/Reading
- Mathematics
- Science
- Social Studies
- Physical Education
- Art
- STEM

Parents may review the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and grade-level expectations through the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

For the **2026-27 school year**, Aggie Academy follows the applicable current North Carolina standards. For example, the 2017 English Language Arts Standard Course of Study remains in place during 2026–27, with the newly adopted 2026 ELA standards scheduled for implementation beginning in 2027–28. ([NC DPI](#))

Families are encouraged to ask teachers:

“What should my child know and be able to do by the end of this grade?”

and

“How is my child progressing toward that expectation?”

III. HOW AGGIE ACADEMY MONITORS STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

Aggie Academy uses multiple sources of information to understand each scholar's academic performance and growth.

These may include:

Classroom Assessments

Teachers use assessments embedded within instruction to determine whether scholars understand the concepts and skills being taught.

Formative Assessments

Teachers regularly collect evidence of learning through questioning, classwork, writing, problem solving, projects, observations, discussions, and other measures.

Diagnostic Assessments

Diagnostic information may be used to identify strengths, unfinished learning, and areas requiring additional support.

Benchmark and NC Check-In Assessments

These assessments help teachers and instructional leaders determine whether scholars are on track toward grade-level expectations and state assessment standards.

North Carolina State Assessments

Scholars participate in required state assessments, including applicable End-of-Grade assessments.

Student Grades and Progress Reports

Grades, report cards, and progress reports provide families with information about academic performance, conduct, and attendance.

Growth Data

Aggie Academy examines student growth in addition to achievement. Growth information helps the school determine whether scholars are making the expected academic progress over time.

Important: A single assessment does not tell the entire story of a scholar's achievement. Aggie Academy uses multiple measures to understand student learning and determine appropriate instructional responses.

IV. HOW PARENTS CAN MONITOR THEIR CHILD'S PROGRESS

Parents should routinely review:

1. Report cards
2. Progress reports
3. Teacher communications
4. Classroom assignments and feedback
5. Assessment results
6. Attendance and tardiness
7. Homework or practice activities

8. Intervention or enrichment information
9. State assessment results when available

Parents are encouraged to ask their child's teacher:

- What are my child's academic strengths?
- What skills is my child currently developing?
- Is my child performing at grade level?
- Is my child making expected growth?
- What assessment evidence supports that conclusion?
- What can we do at home?
- What additional support is available at school?
- What should we monitor before the next progress report?

Parents have the right to receive regular report cards that clearly communicate their child's academic performance, conduct, and attendance. Parents also have the right to review their child's statewide standardized assessment results. ([North Carolina General Assembly](#))

V. PROMOTION AND RETENTION

Aggie Academy follows applicable North Carolina laws and school policies governing promotion and retention. Teachers should make every effort to notify parents well in advance that their child is having trouble with their schoolwork. A minimum of three conferences should be held with the parent before considering the retention of a student. **All conferences MUST be face-to-face or virtual.** The final decision regarding retention lies with the principal. All decisions regarding retention will be made prior to the last day of school in grades K-5 by the principal. Parents should not wait until the end of the school year to discuss concerns about reading, mathematics, or other areas of academic performance.

VI. INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS AND PARENT REVIEW

Aggie Academy uses instructional materials and supplementary materials to support the North Carolina Standard Course of Study and the school's curricular objectives.

Under North Carolina law, parents have the right to access information about their child's course of study and the instructional materials used in the classroom. Parents may also inspect and review instructional and supplementary materials consistent with applicable law and Aggie Academy procedures. ([North Carolina General Assembly](#))

Aggie Academy will provide access in which parents may:

- Learn about their child's course of study
- Learn about the source of supplementary instructional materials
- Review applicable instructional materials
- Review applicable supplementary materials

- Submit an objection to instructional or supplementary materials in accordance with established procedures

Additional Instructional Resource Information

- **Criteria:** Our educational resources are selected to align with the NC Standard Course of Study, be appropriate for the scholars' age, interests, abilities, learning styles, social development, and represent the diversity of values in society.
- **Selection:** The selection of instructional materials involves input from faculty, staff, students, parents, and the community. The Media/Technology Advisory Committee will (at least meet) annually each year as coordinated by our Media Specialist.
- **Resources:** Aggie Academy's resources include workbooks, student materials, supplementary reading and informational materials, learning software, periodicals, newspapers, charts, programs, machine-readable data files, kits, maps, digital platforms, sound and video recordings, and written and performed music.
- **Challenging Resources:** In some cases, parents or guardians may have the option to select an alternate assignment for their child if they find a selected resource personally offensive or too mature for the student. Parents may also choose to opt out of instructional topics or materials that they believe place a significant burden on the religious upbringing of their child or their right to a free expression of their religion. Parents may also challenge educational resources, and the resources will remain in use during the challenge.

To review the school's instructional-materials please **contact the Academy Director at (336) 398-5370:**

Instructional Materials Snapshot: [Aggie Academy Curriculum Resources.pdf](#)

Questions regarding instructional materials should initially be directed to the child's teacher or school administration. If you have an **instructional materials concern, click the link:** [Aggie Academy Teaching & Learning Questions \(Instructional Materials\) – Fill out form](#)

VII. UNDERSTANDING YOUR CHILD'S TEACHER

Aggie Academy is committed to providing scholars with qualified educators.

Parents may request information concerning the qualifications and licensure status of their child's teachers consistent with applicable law and University/school procedures.

Questions regarding teacher qualifications may be directed to:

Academy Director: (336) 398-5370

College of Education Licensure Officer: (336) 334-7663

VIII. HOW PARENTS CAN STRENGTHEN ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT AT HOME

Families make an enormous difference in student achievement.

READ EVERY DAY

Encourage your scholar to read daily. Ask questions about what they are reading:

- What is the main idea?
- What evidence supports your answer?
- Why do you think the character did that?
- What did you learn?
- What questions do you still have?

TALK ABOUT MATHEMATICS

Use everyday experiences to practice mathematics:

- Money
- Time
- Measurement
- Cooking
- Shopping
- Graphs and data
- Estimation
- Mental mathematics

Ask your scholar to explain **how** they solved a problem rather than simply giving you the answer.

ASK ABOUT SCHOOL

Instead of only asking, “How was school?” try:

- What did you learn today?
- What challenged you today?
- What are you proud of?
- What question did you ask?
- What are you working to improve?

ESTABLISH ROUTINES

Create a consistent routine for:

- Reading
- Homework or academic practice
- Organization
- Sleep
- School attendance

- Preparing for the next school day.

CELEBRATE EFFORT AND GROWTH

Tell your scholar that intelligence and achievement are strengthened through effort, practice, perseverance, and appropriate support.

At Aggie Academy, we want scholars to understand:

“I may not know it yet, but I can learn it.”

IX. ATTENDANCE MATTERS

Regular attendance is an essential component of student achievement.

Parents should:

- Ensure that scholars arrive at school on time
- Avoid unnecessary absences
- Monitor tardies
- Communicate with the school regarding absences
- Help scholars make up missed work
- Contact the school when attendance challenges arise

Aggie Academy’s school day begins at **7:20 a.m.**, and scholars arriving after that time are marked tardy. The regular dismissal time is **2:10 p.m.** When attendance becomes a concern, the school and family should work together to identify barriers and develop appropriate solutions.

X. HOMEWORK AND ACADEMIC PRACTICE

Homework and academic practice should reinforce learning rather than overwhelm scholars or families.

Parents can support homework by:

- Providing a consistent workspace
- Establishing a predictable time for academic work
- Encouraging scholars to work independently
- Asking questions rather than completing the work
- Helping scholars organize materials
- Communicating with the teacher when the work is consistently too difficult or too easy
- Encouraging scholars to read every day

Parents should contact the teacher when homework becomes a recurring source of frustration or when a scholar cannot complete assignments independently or during our afterschool program.

XI. SERVICES AND SUPPORTS FOR SCHOLARS

Aggie Academy provides and/or connects scholars and families with appropriate academic and student-support services.

Depending on individual need, supports may include:

- Supplemental instruction
- Intervention
- Tutoring
- Academic enrichment
- Mentoring
- Counseling/student support services
- Exceptional Children services
- Academically or Intellectually Gifted services
- Multilingual learner support, when applicable
- Afterschool programming
- Family literacy resources
- University-supported academic experiences

Parents have the right to request an evaluation of their child for academically or intellectually gifted services or for identification as a child with a disability, consistent with applicable law and procedures ([North Carolina General Assembly](#)). Parents should contact the school if they believe their child requires additional academic, behavioral, developmental, or instructional support.

XII. FAMILY PARTNERSHIP: WHAT WE ASK OF PARENTS

Aggie Academy asks every family to commit to the following:

BE PRESENT

Attend conferences, family events, meetings, and opportunities to learn about your child's education.

BE INFORMED

Read school communications and review your child's academic information.

BE ENGAGED

Ask questions, communicate concerns, and celebrate your child's accomplishments.

BE SUPPORTIVE

Establish routines that support learning, attendance, organization, and responsibility.

BE A PARTNER

Work collaboratively with teachers and administrators when your scholar needs additional support.

BE AN ADVOCATE

Help your scholar develop the confidence to speak about their learning, ask for help, and set goals.

XIII. OPPORTUNITIES FOR PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

Aggie Academy welcomes parent participation in the education of our scholars.

Families may participate through:

- Parent/Family events
- Parent-teacher conferences
- Volunteer opportunities
- Curriculum Nights and related events
- Academic enrichment activities
- Workshops and parent education
- School events
- University/community activities
- Afterschool opportunities
- Other opportunities identified throughout the school year

Aggie Academy currently provides volunteer opportunities for approved volunteers. Volunteers must complete the school's volunteer registration process and receive required approval/background clearance before participating. ([NC A&T State University](#)) Parents interested in volunteering should contact:

Aggie Academy's Program Director at (336) 398-5370

XIV. PARENT COMMUNICATION

Effective communication between home and school is essential to scholar success.

Aggie Academy will use appropriate communication methods, which may include:

- Email
- Telephone
- School website
- Parent meetings
- Conferences
- Written notices
- Progress reports
- Report cards
- Family events
- Other school-approved communication platforms

Parents are encouraged to contact the school when they have questions about:

- Academic progress
- Assessment results
- Attendance
- Homework
- Behavior
- Instructional materials
- Student support services
- School activities
- Other matters affecting their child's education

Unless an issue is time-sensitive, email is generally the preferred method for communicating with the school because it allows staff to appropriately prioritize and respond to family inquiries.

XV. PARENT RIGHTS

North Carolina parents have specific rights regarding their child's education ([PARENTS' RIGHTS FOR THEIR CHILD'S EDUCATION.pdf](#)).

These include, among other rights:

- Reviewing statewide standardized assessment results
- Requesting evaluation for academically or intellectually gifted services or identification as a child with a disability;
- Inspecting and purchasing applicable instructional materials;
- Accessing promotion and retention policies;
- Receiving regular report cards;
- Accessing information regarding state standards and school requirements;
- Participating in parent-teacher organizations;
- Exercising applicable rights concerning certain data collection and protected-information surveys; and
- Reviewing available records of materials borrowed from the school library.

Public school units are required to make applicable parental rights available electronically or through the school website. ([North Carolina General Assembly](#))

For a complete statement of parental rights, families should review **North Carolina General Statutes Chapter 115C, Article 7B, Part 3**.

Submit a question or report a concern related to the Parents' Bill of Rights by clicking [Parents' Bill of Rights Concern \(Aggie Academy\) – Fill out form](#)

XVI. RIGOROUS ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND FUTURE PLANNING

Aggie Academy serves grades 3-5 and therefore does not offer high-school programs such as Advanced Placement, Career and College Promise, or International Baccalaureate.

However, Aggie Academy's responsibility extends beyond the immediate school year. Our scholars should leave fifth grade prepared to enter middle school as confident, capable, curious, and academically prepared learners.

Families are encouraged to begin conversations early about:

- Middle-school readiness
- Academic strengths and interests
- Leadership
- STEAM/STEM opportunities
- Advanced academic opportunities
- Extracurricular interests
- College and career aspirations
- Long-term educational goals

Aggie Academy works in partnership with Guilford County Schools to support scholars as they transition following fifth grade.

XVII. STUDENT HEALTH AND WELL-BEING

Student achievement is strengthened when scholars are healthy, safe, supported, and ready to learn.

Families should stay informed regarding:

- Required immunizations
- Recommended immunizations
- School health services
- Attendance and wellness
- Student support resources
- Procedures for communicating health-related needs to the school

North Carolina law requires the Parent's Guide to include resources concerning student health and available immunization information. ([North Carolina General Assembly](#))

School health contact: Academy Director (336) 398-5370

XVIII. WHEN A PARENT HAS A QUESTION OR CONCERN

Aggie Academy believes concerns are best resolved through respectful, timely communication.

Step 1: Begin with the person closest to the issue.

For academic questions, parents should generally begin with the child's teacher.

Step 2: Involve school administration when necessary.

If the concern is not resolved or requires administrative attention, parents may contact the principal, followed by the academy director.

Step 3: Follow the school's formal concern process.

Parents may submit concerns regarding school procedures or practices through the process established by the governing body.

North Carolina law requires public school units to establish a process for parents to raise concerns regarding covered procedures or practices. The school must work toward resolving the concern within seven days of notification and, if the concern remains unresolved after 30 days, provide a statement explaining the reasons it has not been resolved. ([North Carolina General Assembly](#))

Aggie Academy Parent Concern Procedure:
[Complaints Policy](#)

XIX. OUR 2026–27 CHARGE

Aggie Academy celebrates progress, but we do not confuse progress with the finish line.

Our 2025-26 results demonstrated important academic momentum, including an increase in the school's overall performance grade and positive growth in reading, mathematics, and science. We also met expected academic growth.

Now our responsibility is to build upon that progress.

PROJECT EXCEED: NEXT

In 2026-27, we will continue to emphasize:

- Intentional instruction
- Academic excellence
- Accountability
- Scholar growth
- Family partnership
- Collaboration
- Innovation
- High expectations

We invite every Aggie Academy family to join us in asking:

What can we do together to help my child EXCEED?

Because when school and home work together, **scholar success is not simply hoped for, it is intentionally pursued.**

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Aggie Academy Laboratory School

2207-B East Cone Boulevard

Greensboro, NC 27405

336-398-5370

aggieacademyinfo@ncat.edu

Program Director

Dr. Johnette McCain

jmccain1@ncat.edu

Data/Family Contact

Mrs. Wendy Thomas

336-398-5370

Principal

Dr. Kimberly Erwin

kderwin@ncat.edu

Parent Concern Procedure

[Complaints Policy](#)

Instructional Materials Review/Concern

[Aggie Academy Teaching & Learning Questions \(Instructional Materials\) – Fill out form](#)

ANNUAL REVIEW

This Parent's Guide for Student Achievement shall be reviewed and updated annually in accordance with applicable North Carolina law and State Board of Education requirements.

The guide shall be:

- Provided annually in writing to parents
- Made accessible to students and school personnel
- Posted or made available electronically as appropriate
- Discussed at the beginning of the school year with students, parents, and teachers
- Updated to reflect applicable state requirements and Aggie Academy policies

North Carolina law requires the State Board of Education to update the minimum requirements for the guide annually and requires public school units to provide the guide at the beginning of each school year. ([North Carolina General Assembly](#))

Effective: 2026-27 School Year

APPENDIX A

AGGIE ACADEMY PARENT PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENT

We believe that the strongest educational outcomes occur when families and schools work together.

Families are encouraged to commit to:

- ☐ Ensuring regular and timely attendance
- ☐ Supporting daily reading
- ☐ Establishing homework/study routines
- ☐ Reviewing academic progress regularly
- ☐ Attending conferences and family meetings
- ☐ Communicating with teachers
- ☐ Supporting positive behavior and citizenship
- ☐ Encouraging high expectations
- ☐ Helping scholars set academic goals
- ☐ Celebrating growth and perseverance
- ☐ Asking for help when needed
- ☐ Participating in Aggie Academy activities and opportunities

WE ARE ONE TEAM FOR SCHOLAR SUCCESS.

APPENDIX B

QUESTIONS EVERY PARENT SHOULD ASK ABOUT STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT

At least once each grading period, families are encouraged to ask:

- 1. Where is my child performing now?**
- 2. What should my child know and be able to do at this point in the school year?**
- 3. Is my child on grade level?**
- 4. Is my child making expected growth?**
- 5. What evidence do we have?**
- 6. What are my child's strengths?**
- 7. What skills require additional attention?**
- 8. What is the school doing to support my child?**
- 9. What can I do at home?**
- 10. What should we look for next?**

FINAL MESSAGE TO FAMILIES

Your child's success matters to us.

We will communicate with you.

We will listen to you.

We will challenge your child.

We will support your child.

We will celebrate your child's growth.

And we ask you to do the same.

Together, we will help every Aggie Academy scholar reach higher, grow stronger, and EXCEED expectations.