

TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-5

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROFICIENCY-CENTERED EDUCATIONAL ACCOUNTABILITY

WHEREAS, North Carolina's public education system should be accountable for whether students are mastering the knowledge and skills expected at their grade or course level; and

WHEREAS, student academic growth can provide valuable information about individual progress and can help educators identify whether students are advancing academically; and

WHEREAS, growth and proficiency are not the same measure, and a student may demonstrate substantial growth while remaining below grade-level expectations; and

WHEREAS, an accountability system should recognize meaningful student progress without allowing growth measures to obscure whether students have ultimately reached proficiency; and

WHEREAS, school accountability measures should be understandable and transparent to parents, educators, students, policymakers, and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, excessive reliance upon complex statistical growth models can make educational performance more difficult for the public to understand and may create incentives to optimize performance against the measurement system rather than focusing primarily upon student mastery; and

WHEREAS, educational equity requires that persistent proficiency gaps among student populations remain visible and that improvement in aggregate measures not obscure students who continue to perform below grade level;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Transylvania County Board of Education (the "Board"):

1. **Supports grade- and course-level proficiency as the primary academic outcome in North Carolina's school accountability system.**
2. **Supports the continued use of student growth as an important diagnostic and secondary accountability measure**, particularly for recognizing meaningful progress among students who begin below grade level.

3. **Encourages the State to ensure that growth measures do not substitute for or obscure proficiency**, and that public reporting clearly distinguishes between students making progress and students meeting established academic standards.
4. **Encourages reconsideration of “met growth” and “exceeded growth” as primary determinants of school or administrator performance compensation**, in favor of a broader and more transparent set of educational outcomes.
5. **Supports accountability measures that include**, where appropriate:
 - grade- and course-level proficiency;
 - improvement in the percentage of students reaching proficiency;
 - literacy and numeracy milestones;
 - graduation and successful completion;
 - college, career, military, and postsecondary readiness; and
 - persistent proficiency disparities among student populations.
6. **Encourages accountability measures that are resistant to manipulation and understandable without specialized statistical interpretation**, so families and the public can readily determine whether students are meeting State academic expectations.
7. **Affirms that students making significant progress while remaining below proficiency should have that progress recognized**, while the educational system continues working toward the ultimate objective of bringing those students to grade-level mastery.

The Board believes North Carolina's accountability system should answer a straightforward public question:

Are students learning what the State has determined they should know and be able to do?

Growth provides important information about the journey toward that objective, but it should not replace the objective itself.

Growth measures progress.

Proficiency measures whether the academic standard has been reached.

Both matter, but proficiency must remain the destination.

DISTRIBUTION

Upon adoption, the Board directs that this Resolution be transmitted to the members of the North Carolina General Assembly representing Transylvania County, the appropriate legislative education committees, the North Carolina State Board of Education, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

ADOPTED this ____ day of _____, 2026.

Chair, Transylvania County Board of Education

Superintendent / Secretary to the Board