



## **Qualifying Schools Announced for Possible Inclusion in the NC Innovative School District**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE September 5, 2018

(Raleigh, NC)— Dr. Eric Hall, Deputy State Superintendent of Innovation and founding Superintendent of the North Carolina Innovative School District (ISD), announced today the names of the qualifying low-performing, schools in the state and those that will be considered for inclusion in the ISD for the 2019-20 school year. The qualifying list, which includes both rural and urban schools, is determined by school performance data provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction's Accountability Division.

Last year, 48 schools were on the qualifying list compared to 14 this year. Of the 14, six are rural schools and eight are urban schools. The number of low-performing districts—districts with over 50% of their school considered low-performing—decreased from 11 to seven. “These reductions show that school systems across the state are taking strategic steps to improve student growth and achievement in their district,” Dr. Hall commented. “It is important to note that schools that adopted one of the state’s established reform models were removed from the qualifying list. It is our hope that these interventions will be successful and lead to improved student outcomes,” Dr. Hall added.

The following criteria was used to identify qualifying schools:

- School performance score was in the lowest 5% of all schools in the prior year (2017/2018 school year)
- Includes all or part of grades K-5
- Did not exceed growth in at least one of the prior three school years and did not meet growth in at least one of the prior three school years
- Did not adopt one of the state’s established reform models for the immediate prior year

### **Qualifying (Low-Performing) Schools**

1. Ashley Academy – Forsyth County Schools
2. Brogden Middle – Wayne County Public Schools
3. Carver Heights Elementary – Wayne County Public Schools
4. Eno Valley Elementary – Durham Public Schools
5. Fairview Elementary – Guilford County Schools
6. Forest Park Elementary – Forsyth County Schools
7. Gaston Middle – Northampton County Schools
8. Hall-Woodward Elementary – Forsyth County Schools
9. Hillcrest Elementary – Alamance Burlington Schools
10. Kimberly Park Elementary – Forsyth County Schools
11. Renaissance West STEAM Academy – Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools
12. Stocks Elementary – Edgecombe County Public Schools
13. Vandalia Elementary – Guilford County Schools
14. Williford Elementary – Nash Rocky Mount Schools



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The ISD narrowed down the list of 14 qualifying schools to a list of schools under final consideration by removing:

- All schools rated as a “D” in the 2017-2018 school year
- All schools rated “F” but met growth in 2017-2018
- All schools who have met academic growth in both 2015-2016 and 2016-2017 *and* earned a “D” rating for those same years

### Qualifying Schools Under Consideration for Transfer into the ISD

#### *Rural*

1. Carver Heights Elementary – Wayne County Public Schools
2. Gaston Middle – Northampton County Schools
3. Hillcrest Elementary – Alamance Burlington Schools
4. Williford Elementary – Nash-Rocky Mount Schools

#### *Urban*

5. Fairview Elementary – Guilford County Schools
6. Hall-Woodward Elementary – Forsyth County Schools

The ISD will now begin the task of selecting two to four schools for transfer into the ISD for the 2019-2020 school year. Dr. Hall explained, “Once we make final selections from the list of schools under consideration, we will begin partnering with local communities and districts to examine how we can work together to create innovative conditions that will help students improve their academic growth and achievement.” Additionally, the ISD superintendent will work with families and local partners to identify and match qualified operators to run the selected schools under contract with the State Board of Education for a period of five years. At the end of the contract, the schools will be transitioned back to the control and management of the local school district, unless other options are agreed upon by the local school board, the ISD Superintendent and approved by the State Board of Education.

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### About the NC Innovative School District (ISD)

Established in 2016 through legislation enacted to improve student outcomes in low-performing schools across North Carolina, the ISD works in partnership with local communities to design and implement strategies for school improvement, creating innovative conditions for accelerating student growth and achievement. For more information, visit [www.innovativeschooldistrict.org](http://www.innovativeschooldistrict.org).

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