PHOENIX ACADEMY

Elevating education. Building character.™

September 1, 2026

Dear Phoenix Families,

In accordance with Section 1112(e)(2)(a) of Every *Student Succeeds Act* (ESSA), we are writing to provide information regarding the assessments that will be administered this year to scholars at Phoenix Academy.

Each year we must administer state and federal tests in certain grade levels and for certain subjects. Below is a calendar of when these tests are scheduled. In some cases, we have flexibility and in others we do not.

State and federal testing is important for your child(ren) to participate in as schools are rated on how much of their school population participated. Additionally, the results of testing allow school leaders to find trends across many different platforms. Some of these trends may be what we are doing well, what areas we need to improve, which students are being successful, and which students need more support. The same trends can be found for schools. Standardized testing helps us compare schools across the state to see if a consistent experience is being provided to all North Carolina students.

When standardized testing is used correctly, it provides rich data for leaders to use to drive instruction and make sure students are getting the best opportunity to learn. High stakes testing is not productive. That is when testing is used to label or limit a group, a school, or educators. I am proud to say that at Phoenix, over the last 24 years, we have worked hard to make sure our state testing data is used with an improvement mindset. As we approach each of these tests, we will send out information specific to them so you understand what they are trying to measure, how you can help your child, and how to interpret the results.

If you have questions, please contact me or the Dean of your building. We know that standardized testing can cause anxiety to many students and their families, and we want to help make the experience the best possible. Please note that currently, standardized testing begins in 3rd grade. Kindergarten through second grade families will get information about school assessments from their child's teacher.

For additional information about our assessment transparency, please visit our website at: PhoenixAcademyHighPoint.org and click on **School Operations**. Then select **Testing & Assessments.**

In Partnership,
Mrs. McNees
Principal