



# Alexander County Schools

700 LILEDOWN ROAD  
TAYLORSVILLE, NORTH CAROLINA 28681

January 24, 2019

Parents,

The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) has recently informed our school system as well as others that there is an issue with the calculation of grades in PowerTeacher Pro, the program used to enter, store and average student grades. NCDPI reported that 109 school districts and 59 charter schools in the state are affected by this issue. The error is due to a change in grade scale required at the state level in July 2018. In our district, this issue is limited to the 2018-2019 school year. We are confident that we will be able to correct this issue in our district and want to reassure you that your child's grades will be evaluated based on this information.

NCDPI has reassured us that the calculation issue deals with the way grades are rounded in the program, and therefore, inaccuracies are not expected to be more than one point either lower or higher than what the program has reported. Even though these inaccuracies in grading are slight, we want every child's grades to be assessed.

NCDPI is working now to fix the calculation error within the grading program. Once that is complete, we will ensure the accuracy of all grades before printing final report cards. After the recalculation, if final grades from first quarter are different from what was printed on the first nine weeks report cards, we will give students the higher of the two grades. Due to the length of this process, we are changing our report card release date to Friday, Feb. 8, 2019. We apologize for the delay but feel strongly that each student's grades should be evaluated based on this information.

We appreciate your patience and understanding while we work to ensure that all grades are accurate for all students in Alexander County. Until this issue is resolved, teachers will not be entering grades for the second semester for the high school and third nine-weeks for elementary and middle schools into PowerTeacher Pro. We hope to be back on schedule very soon. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but we want you to be confident in the accuracy of grades distributed by Alexander County Schools.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jennifer F. Hefner, Superintendent