



# Hot Topic Movies

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## New ABCs Growth Formulas

*Presented by the NC Department of Public Instruction*

### KEY POINTS

- ABCs growth formulas are used to track and set expected academic growth for individual students from one year to the next.
- ABCs school designations are determined according to percentages of students scoring proficient and according to growth formulas showing student progress.
- In the 10 years of the ABCs, the growth formulas have remained the same, but the reading and math curriculum and assessments have changed.
- Effective for 2005-06, new growth formulas will be used. The new formulas should provide consistent and reliable performance measures of schools from year to year.
- Student performance levels used to judge growth will remain the same.
  - Level I – insufficient mastery
  - Level II – inconsistent mastery
  - Level III – consistent mastery
  - Level IV – consistently beyond proficiency
- School designations will remain the same, ranging from Honor Schools of Excellence to priority schools.
- The new ABCs formulas are different enough that comparisons between the 2006 performance of schools and prior years should be avoided.
  - There may be fewer Honor Schools of Excellence or Schools of Distinction at the high school level due to US History and Civics and Economics assessments being added to high school composite scores.
  - There may be similar percentages of top ranking schools at the elementary level.
  - Middle schools may do better under the new growth formulas.
- This year, local school districts have the tools to provide teachers with class rosters showing the growth of each student in the class. This information can be a useful indicator to help teachers improve instructional strategies and to ask better questions about student performance and instructional needs.
- To be successful, schools must:
  - focus on curriculum delivery;
  - actively engage all students;
  - align resources to instructional priorities;
  - use end of grade and end of course assessments as global needs indicators; and
  - conduct and analyze ongoing classroom assessments.
- You can access the ABCs accountability report and ABCs background information at <http://abcs.ncpublicschools.org/>.
- Callers are invited to leave messages on this hotline, 800-431-7373, and answers will be returned promptly.
- An email address at [abcs@dpi.state.nc.us](mailto:abcs@dpi.state.nc.us) is set up to accept questions regarding the ABCs and school accountability.

