



## News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **N.C. Opportunity Culture Schools Beat State Rates of Student Growth**

CHAPEL HILL, N.C.—Fifty-nine percent of Opportunity Culture schools in North Carolina exceeded student growth expectations in 2015–16, more than double the percentage of N.C. schools overall at just 28 percent, according to school performance data the state released September 2.

Similarly, high-poverty Opportunity Culture schools exceeded growth expectations at much higher rates than in North Carolina overall: 56 percent versus 26 percent of high-poverty schools statewide. High-poverty schools have 40 percent or more students qualifying for free or reduced lunch.

Two-thirds of Opportunity Culture schools were high-poverty schools.

Statewide, 25 percent of N.C. schools overall did not meet growth expectations, compared with 11 percent of Opportunity Culture schools in the state.

Opportunity Culture schools redesign teacher and teacher-leader roles to extend great teachers' reach and provide all students with access to excellent teaching, consistently. More teachers experience teacher-led, on-the-job learning and paid career opportunities, all funded within regular school budgets.

Both the Charlotte-Mecklenburg (CMS) and Cabarrus County districts have Opportunity Culture schools.

In CMS, 51 percent of non-Opportunity Culture schools exceeded growth expectations. But CMS Opportunity Culture schools were even more likely to surpass expectations, with 62 percent exceeding expectations.

Among high-poverty schools in CMS, 57 percent of Opportunity Culture schools exceeded expectations, compared with 44 percent of non-Opportunity Culture schools.

High-poverty Opportunity Culture schools that exceeded expectations reached nearly 70 percent of their students with teachers in Opportunity Culture roles reserved for highly effective teachers. Low-poverty Opportunity Culture schools that exceeded growth expectations were more likely than high-poverty schools to use Opportunity Culture roles only in selected grades or subjects. Most of the low-poverty Opportunity Culture schools exceeding expectations had twice the state's average percentage of highly effective teachers in 2014–15; they used these roles selectively to reach even more students with great teaching.

"We're pleased about these results, but also committed to improving Opportunity Culture further," said Bryan C. Hassel, co-director of Public Impact, which created the Opportunity Culture initiative. "Kudos to the amazing teachers, principals and district leaders pioneering this work."

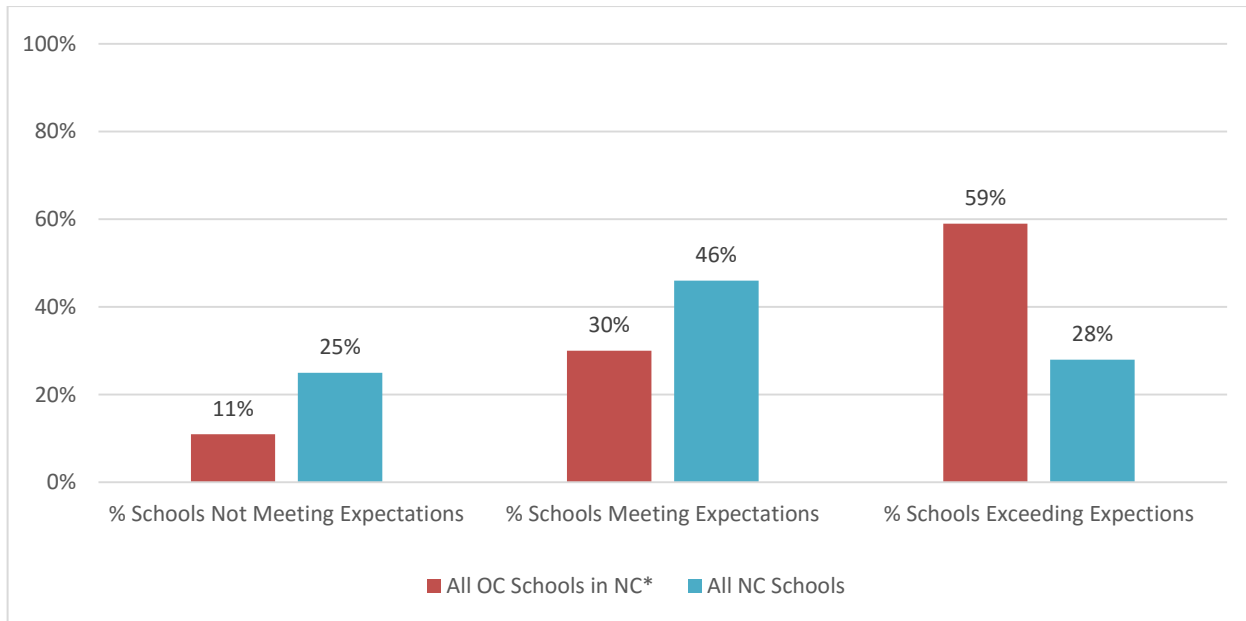
Public Impact will release additional data about Opportunity Culture sites nationally, including teacher satisfaction surveys and the growing number of students affected, later in 2016. Public Impact also will be conducting additional analyses to understand the differences between Opportunity Culture schools exceeding growth expectations and other schools. This will include identifying how successful schools chose where to target Opportunity Culture roles when using them in only part of a school. This analysis may have implications

for school turnarounds, closing achievement gaps in lower-poverty schools, and student success in grades and subjects not reflected in the EVAAS ratings.

Data currently available are based on limited numbers of schools. As more schools implement Opportunity Culture models, Public Impact will have increasingly accurate information about which Opportunity Culture models and implementation methods work best in differing circumstances.

Schools in nine district sites in six states nationwide are designing or implementing Opportunity Culture models. Pay supplements have been as high as 50 percent, and an average of about 20 percent, of base salaries.

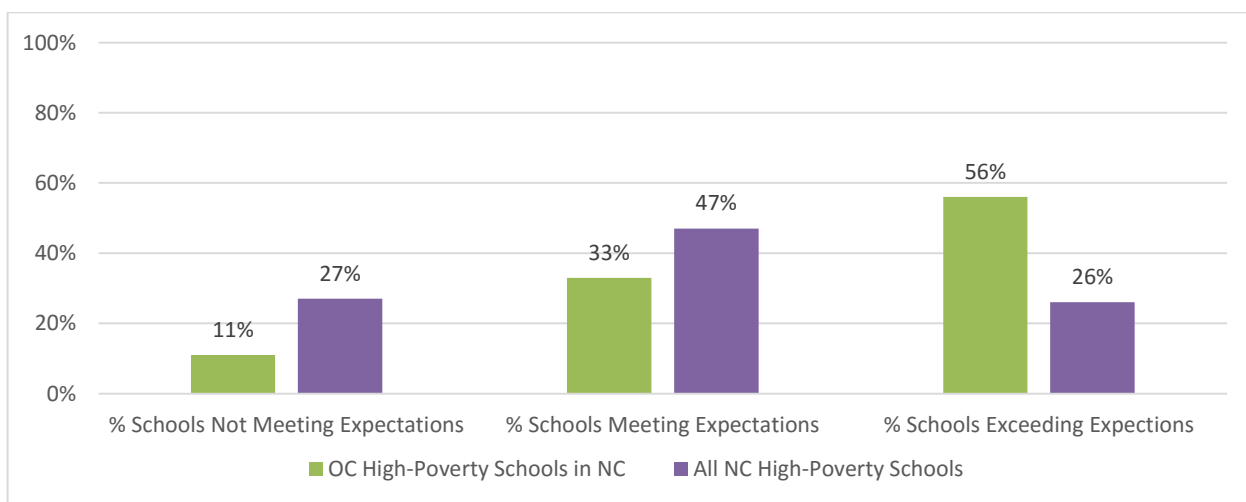
**Student Growth: N.C. Opportunity Culture (OC) Schools vs. Statewide, 2015–16**



\* Schools with grades implementing OC in tested grades that contribute to EVAAS growth results.

Note: All percentages do not total to 100 percent due to rounding.

**Student Growth in High-Poverty N.C. Schools: Opportunity Culture (OC) Schools vs. Statewide, 2015–16**



## About Public Impact

Public Impact is a national organization whose mission is to dramatically improve learning outcomes for all children in the U.S., with a special focus on students who are not served well. We are a team of professionals from many backgrounds, including former teachers. We are researchers, thought leaders, tool-builders, and on-the-ground consultants who work with leading education reformers.

Learn more about an Opportunity Culture on the [OpportunityCulture.org](http://OpportunityCulture.org) website, which provides [tools](#)—all free—to build an Opportunity Culture, [videos of teachers and principals](#), and related [resources](#). Funding for development of resources to help schools design and implement Opportunity Culture models and support teachers taking on new roles has been provided by [numerous foundations](#).

Educators who have worked in Opportunity Culture schools are [publishing a series of columns](#) about their work on RealClearEducation.com.

For more information, please visit [www.OpportunityCulture.org](http://www.OpportunityCulture.org). To arrange an interview with Public Impact, contact Sharon Keschull Barrett at [Sharon.Barrett@publicimpact.com](mailto:Sharon.Barrett@publicimpact.com); 919.929.4544.