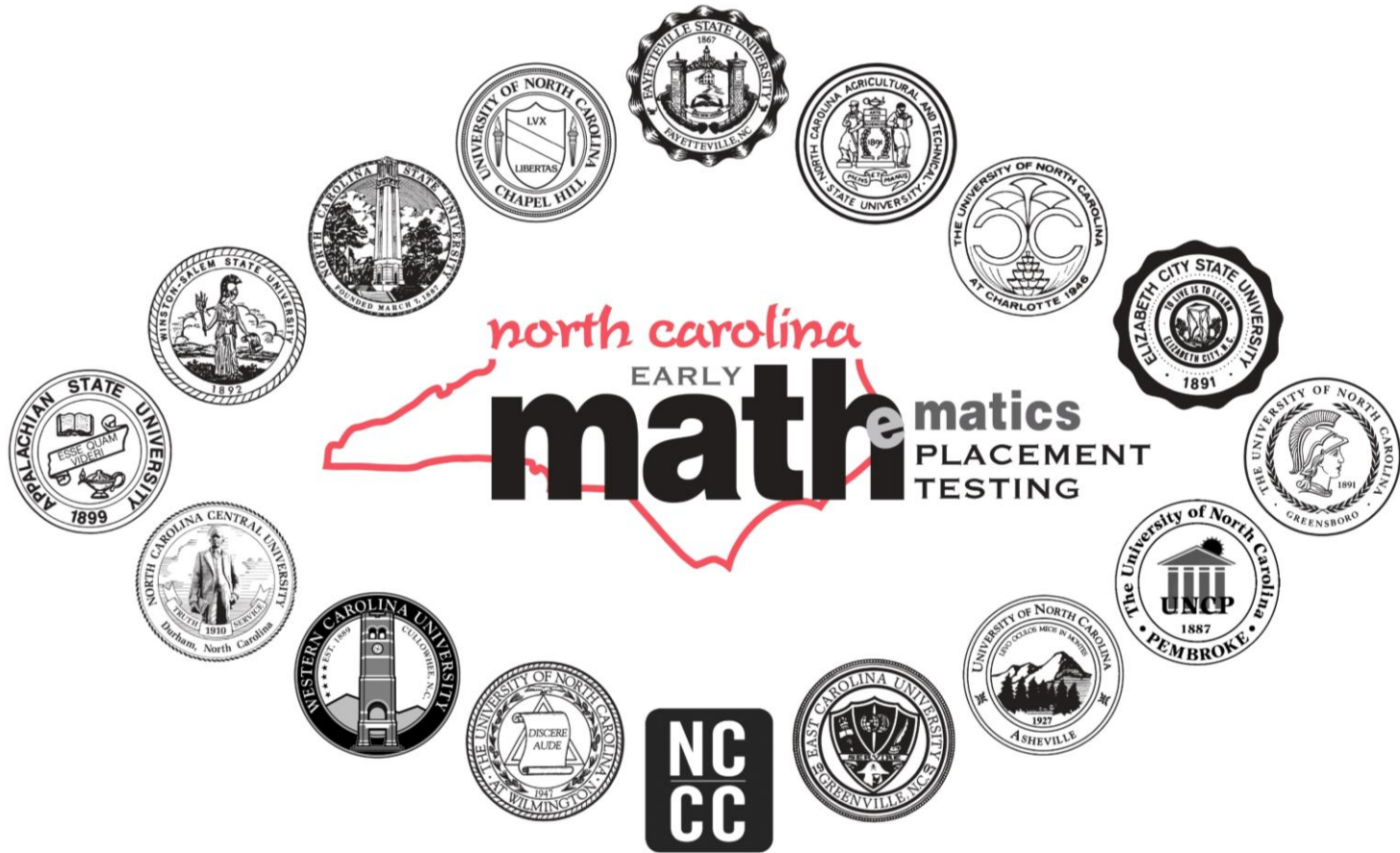


# NC EMPT Advisory Board Meeting



October 10, 2025

# 2025-26 Board Members



John Sevier  
Appalachian State University



Guoqing Tang  
NC A&T State University



Jeanne-Marie Linker  
UNC - Charlotte



Charles A. Aiken  
NC Dept of Public Instruction



Lisa Mabe Eads  
NC Community College System Office



Scott Richter (tentative)  
UNC - Greensboro



Lisa Ashe  
NC Dept of Public Instruction



Ashley Parrott  
NC Community College System Office



Hillary Sessions  
UNC - Pembroke



Joseph Reaper  
NC Dept of Public Instruction



Solomon Abraham  
North Carolina Central University



Russ Herman  
UNC - Wilmington



Valerie DeBellis  
East Carolina University



Leslie Kurtz  
North Carolina State University



Katie O'Connor  
UNC System Office



Michael J. Spurr  
East Carolina University



Stephanie Woodley  
Pitt Community College



Ulisa E. Bowles  
UNC System Office



J. Allagan & W. Gao  
Elizabeth City State University



Rudy Beharrysingh  
UNC - Asheville



Katie Johnston  
Winston-Salem State University



Radoslav Nickolov  
Fayetteville State University



Mark Williams  
UNC - Chapel Hill



Sibley Bryan  
Western Carolina University

# 2025 Host & Speakers



Katie A O'Connor  
VP of Student Affairs  
UNC System Office



Charles A. Aiken  
NC DPI



Aaron Mabe  
NCCC System Office



Ulisa E. Bowles  
UNC System Office



Valerie DeBellis  
NC EMPT



Rudy Beharrysingh  
UNC - Asheville



Sibley Bryan  
Western Carolina Univ

# Announcements



Dr. Bethany Meighen  
Transitioned

13<sup>th</sup> President of Concord University as of July 1, 2025



# Announcements



**THE UNIVERSITY OF  
NORTH CAROLINA SYSTEM**

**MATH PATHWAYS TASK FORCE**

## **Placement Subcommittee**

- Deliverable of Request for ALEKS Funding - Goal of 12/2024
- Proposal was submitted in 12/2024
- Moved forward to Provosts in 3/2025; met with approval
- Unfortunately funds are not available

The UNC System Office is renewing the ALEKS agreement and also adding a Respondus proctoring component to the agreement. The price per student for both ALEKS & RESPONDUS is \$25 per student.

# Announcements

October 2024 Advisory Board Speaker

Dr. Tamar Avineri, Mathematics Dept Chair, NC School of Science & Math  
UNC Math Pathways Taskforce Member & Placement Committee co-chair



# NC K-16 SYSTEM | Updates

## **NC Department of Public Instruction**

- ▶ Charles Aiken, Section Chief, K - 12 Math, Science, and STEM

## **The Launch Years Initiative**

- ▶ Charles Aiken, Section Chief, K - 12 Math, Science, and STEM

## **NC Community College System Office**

- ▶ Aaron Mabe, State Director of Dual Enrollment

## **UNC System Office**

- ▶ Ulisa E. Bowles, Vice President for Enrollment Management

## **NC EMPT Program Update**

- ▶ Valerie DeBellis, NC EMPT Director, ECU Math Placement Coordinator

## **HOT TOPIC - Student Success in Mathematics after Hurricane Helene**

- ▶ Rudy Beharrysingh, Director, Math Assistance Center, UNC - Asheville
- ▶ Sibley Bryan, Director, Math & Computer Sci Tutoring Ctr, WCU



Dr. Charles Aiken, Section Chief  
Mathematics, Science, & STEM

NC EMPT Advisory Board  
NCDPI K-12 Math Updates



# NC K-16 SYSTEM | Updates

## NC Department of Public Instruction

- ▶ Charles Aiken, Section Chief, K - 12 Math, Science, and STEM

## The Launch Years Initiative

- ▶ Charles Aiken, Section Chief, K - 12 Math, Science, and STEM

## NC Community College System Office

- ▶ Aaron Mabe, State Director of Dual Enrollment

## UNC System Office

- ▶ Ulisa E. Bowles, Vice President for Enrollment Management

## NC EMPT Program Update

- ▶ Valerie DeBellis, NC EMPT Director, ECU Math Placement Coordinator

## HOT TOPIC - Student Success in Mathematics after Hurricane Helene

- ▶ Rudy Beharrysingh, Director, Math Assistance Center, UNC - Asheville
- ▶ Sibley Bryan, Director, Math & Computer Sci Tutoring Ctr, WCU



# NC K-16 SYSTEM | Updates

## NC Department of Public Instruction

- ▶ Charles Aiken, Section Chief, K - 12 Math, Science, and STEM

## The Launch Years Initiative

- ▶ Charles Aiken, Section Chief, K - 12 Math, Science, and STEM

## NC Community College System Office

- ▶ Aaron Mabe, State Director of Dual Enrollment

## UNC System Office

- ▶ Ulisa E. Bowles, Vice President for Enrollment Management

## NC EMPT Program Update

- ▶ Valerie DeBellis, NC EMPT Director, ECU Math Placement Coordinator

## HOT TOPIC - Student Success in Mathematics after Hurricane Helene

- ▶ Rudy Beharrysingh, Director, Math Assistance Center, UNC - Asheville
- ▶ Sibley Bryan, Director, Math & Computer Sci Tutoring Ctr, WCU



# NC K-16 SYSTEM | Updates

## NC Department of Public Instruction

- ▶ Charles Aiken, Section Chief, K - 12 Math, Science, and STEM

## The Launch Years Initiative

- ▶ Charles Aiken, Section Chief, K - 12 Math, Science, and STEM

## NC Community College System Office

- ▶ Aaron Mabe, State Director of Dual Enrollment

## UNC System Office

- ▶ Ulisa E. Bowles, Vice President for Enrollment Management

## NC EMPT Program Update

- ▶ Valerie DeBellis, NC EMPT Director, ECU Math Placement Coordinator

## HOT TOPIC - Student Success in Mathematics after Hurricane Helene

- ▶ Rudy Beharrysingh, Director, Math Assistance Center, UNC - Asheville
- ▶ Sibley Bryan, Director, Math & Computer Sci Tutoring Ctr, WCU



# NC EMPT | Business Operations

## Meet the Team



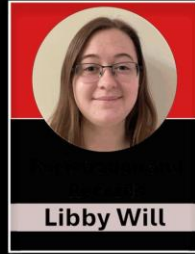
Valerie DeBellis



Ryon Geringer



Renee Fischer



Libby Will



Hannah Manning

- ▶ **UNC System Program headquartered at ECU**
- ▶ **Goal: Provide early plcmt experience into any UNC Aff.**
- ▶ **“Readiness” is based on Math Plcmnt Test & Bkgrnd ?**
- ▶ **Decline in Budget Funding (July 2020 & July 2025)**
- ▶ **Healthy registration numbers for 2025-2026**

*Statewide, NC EMPT has served*

# 863,790 STUDENTS

*since our start in 1996 through 2024-2025*

# NC EMPT | Business Operations

NC EMPT | Register | Collaborate/Request PD | FREE RESOURCES | Weekly Questions | FAQ | Contact Us

## WELCOME TO NC EMPT!

Each dot represents a participating high school in the 2023-2024 school year.

The NC Early Mathematics Placement Testing (NC EMPT) Program provides high school students with a non-threatening, eye-opening, reality check of their readiness for college-level mathematics.

Sponsored by the State of North Carolina, we provide a FREE service to high school teachers and students.

To learn more about us and our assessment tools and materials, navigate to the [FAQ](#) and [FREE RESOURCES](#) sections.

**'24-'25 Math Placement Procedures**  
NC Community Colleges and UNC Constitutents

**ADVISORY BOARD LOGIN**

**MSP<sup>2</sup> LOGIN**

### QUICK LINKS

- [Participating NC High Schools \(2023-24\)](#)
- [Participating Colleges/Universities](#)
- [NC EMPT Advisory Board Member List](#)

65°F Partly cloudy

✓ **NC EMPT website - [www.ncempt.org](http://www.ncempt.org)**

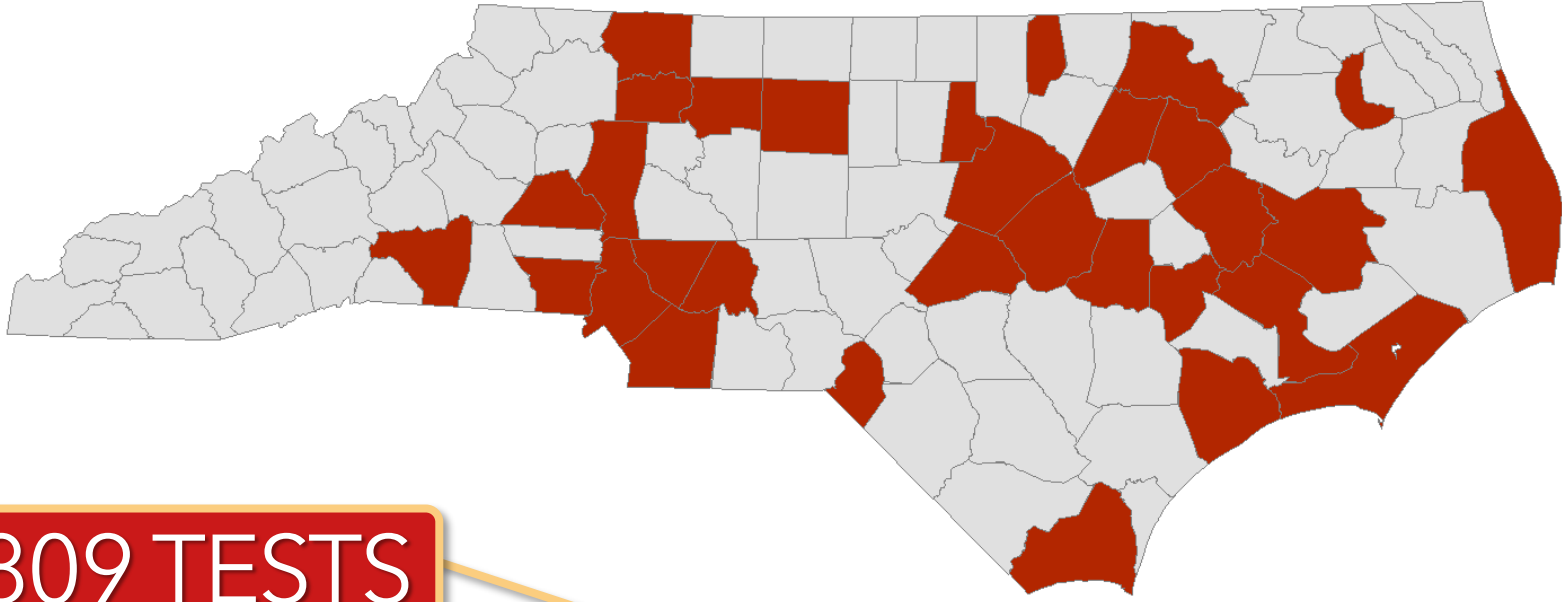
Statewide, NC EMPT has served

**863,790 STUDENTS**

since our start in 1996 through 2024-2025



# 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR



4809 TESTS

90 TEACHERS

51 SCHOOLS

31 COUNTIES

OVERALL AVERAGE PER STUDENT: 14.58 (out of 32)  
OPTION #2 AVERAGE: 15.4 (out of 32)

25 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

7 CHARTER SCHOOLS

19 PRIVATE SCHOOLS

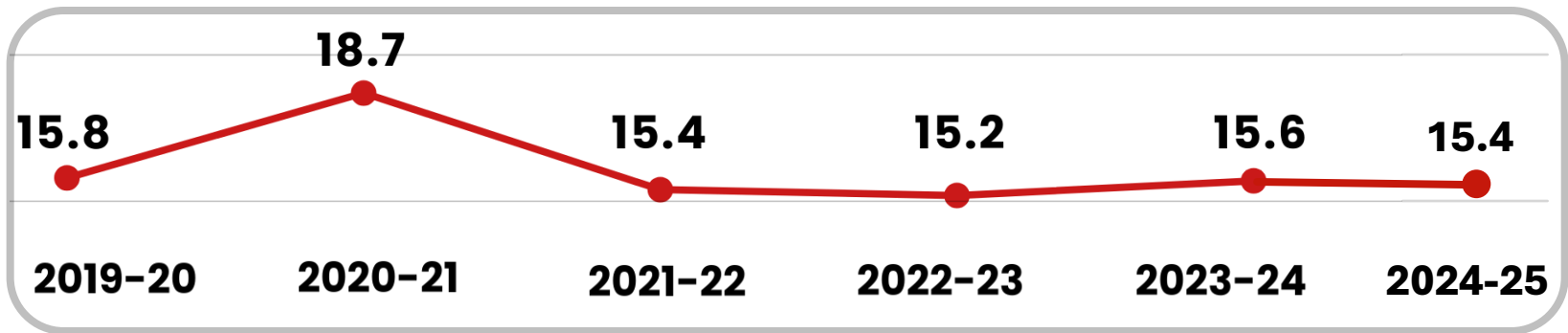
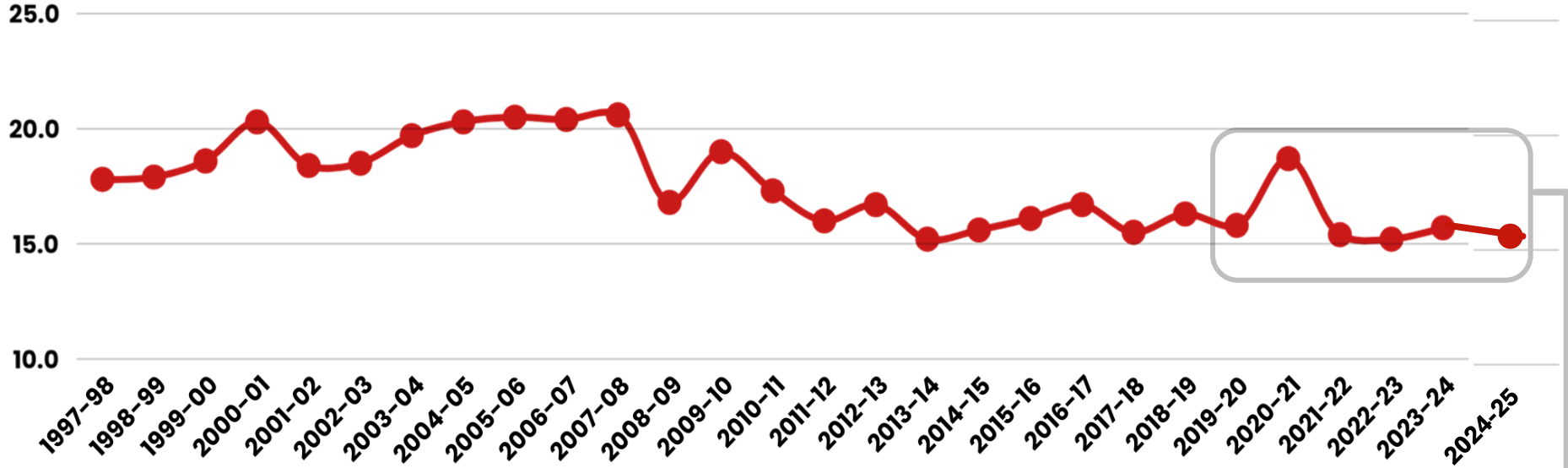
# Rebuilding after COVID-19

*Six Years in Review*

NORTH CAROLINA EARLY MATHEMATICS PLACEMENT TESTING

## AVERAGE SCORE PER STUDENT

BASED ON DATA FROM OPTION 2 TESTS




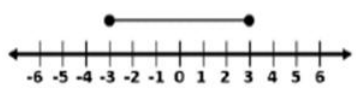
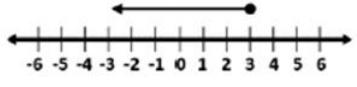
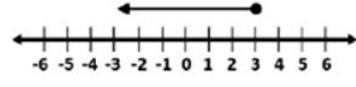
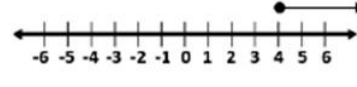
**NORTH CAROLINA EARLY MATH  
PLACEMENT TESTING PROGRAM**

*Providing a Timely Reality Check of Readiness for Post-Secondary Level Mathematics*



**NC EMPT 2024-2025 Salmon Test Version**  
3,095 high school student participants

# TOP TEN MISSED QUESTIONS

Top 10 Missed	% MISSED	Test Item, 2024-2025 NC EMPT Salmon Test Version
<p><b>1.</b></p> <p>#32 in test booklet</p>	<p><b>93%</b></p>	<p>Simplify the rational expression: <math>\frac{3b^2-12}{6b^2+6b-36}</math></p> <p>A. <math>\frac{(b-2)(b+2)}{2(b^2+b-6)}</math>    B. <math>\frac{b^2-4}{2b^2+2b-12}</math>    C. <math>\frac{b-2}{2(b+3)}</math>    D. <math>\frac{b+2}{2(b+3)}</math>    E. <math>\frac{b+2}{2b+6}</math></p>
<p><b>2.</b></p> <p>#30 in test booklet</p>	<p><b>82%</b></p>	<p>Find the inverse: <math>f(x) = 4 - \frac{2}{3}x</math></p> <p>A. <math>f^{-1}(x) = \frac{2}{3}x - 4</math>    B. <math>f^{-1}(x) = \frac{1}{4} - \frac{3}{2}x</math>    C. <math>f^{-1}(x) = -\frac{2}{3}x +</math>  D. <math>f^{-1}(x) = -\frac{3}{2}x + 6</math>    E. <math>f^{-1}(x) = -\frac{3}{2}x - 6</math></p>
<p><b>3.</b></p> <p>#19 in test booklet</p>	<p><b>78%</b></p>	<p>Solve: <math>4a^2 - 31 \leq 5</math></p> <p>A. </p> <p>B. </p> <p>C. </p> <p>D. </p> <p>E. </p>

Top 10 Missed	% MISSED	<b>Test Item, 2024-2025 NC EMPT Salmon Test Version</b>	
<p><b>4.</b></p> <p>#12 in test booklet</p>	<p><b>70%</b></p>	<p>Suppose a 7-foot ladder is leaning against a wall. The bottom of the ladder is a distance of <math>x</math> feet from the wall. Which expression represents the measure of the angle between the ladder and the floor, <math>\theta</math>?</p> <p>A. <math>\sin^{-1}\left(\frac{7}{x}\right)</math>                      B. <math>\tan^{-1}\left(\frac{7}{x}\right)</math>                      C. <math>\cos^{-1}\left(\frac{x}{7}\right)</math></p> <p>D. <math>\cos\left(\frac{x}{7}\right)</math>                      E. <math>\tan\left(\frac{7}{x}\right)</math></p>	
<p><b>5.</b></p> <p>#24 in test booklet</p>	<p><b>69%</b></p>	<p>Find the shortest distance between points A and B, illustrated on the graph to the right.</p> <p>A. 2 units                      B. <math>3\sqrt{5}</math> units                      C. <math>\sqrt{21}</math> units</p> <p>D. 6.8 units                      E. 9 units</p>	
<p><b>6.</b></p> <p>#8 in test booklet</p>	<p><b>69%</b></p>	<p>Which of the following functions has a range of <math>[-7, \infty)</math>?</p> <p>A. <math>f(x) = 3x - 7</math>                      B. <math>f(x) = (x - 7)^2</math>                      C. <math>f(x) = \sqrt{x + 8} - 7</math></p> <p>D. <math>f(x) = 20^{x-7}</math>                      E. None of these</p>	

<b>Top 10 Missed</b>	<b>% MISSED</b>	<b>Test Item, 2024-2025 NC EMPT Salmon Test Version</b>
<b>7.</b> #31 in test booklet	<b>68%</b>	<p>A student performed two transformations on the function <math>f(x) =  x - 2  + 1</math>. First, they reflected the graph over the x-axis, and then they shifted it to the left 3 units. Which equation represents the new graph?</p> <p>A. <math>f(x) = -3 x - 2  + 1</math>      B. <math>f(x) = - x - 2  + 4</math>      C. <math>f(x) =  -x - 2  - 2</math></p> <p>D. <math>f(x) = - x - 5  + 1</math>      E. <math>f(x) = - x + 1  + 1</math></p>
<b>8.</b> #13 in test booklet	<b>68%</b>	<p>What is the remainder when the polynomial <math>4x^4 - 13x^2 - 2x + 1</math> is divided by <math>x - 2</math>?</p> <p>A. <math>-23</math>      B. <math>-1</math>      C. <math>9</math></p> <p>D. <math>-2x + 1</math>      E. <math>4x^4 - 13x^2 - 3</math></p>
<b>9.</b> #15 in test booklet	<b>64%</b>	<p>A basketball team scored the following point totals during the first five games of the season: <math>\{50, 65, 40, 40, 60\}</math></p> <p>During the sixth game, the team scored 63 points. Which statistic would be most affected by the score in the sixth game?</p> <p>A. Mean      B. Median      C. Mode</p> <p>D. Range      E. Maximum</p>
<b>10.</b> #22 in test booklet	<b>62%</b>	<p>Assume that <math>a \neq 0</math>, <math>x \neq 0</math>, and <math>y \neq 0</math>. Solve the equation <math>y = \frac{aH}{x}</math> for <math>H</math>.</p> <p>A. <math>H = xy - a</math>    B. <math>H = \frac{y-x}{a}</math>    C. <math>H = \frac{xa}{y}</math>    D. <math>H = \frac{xy}{a}</math>    E. <math>H = \frac{ay}{x}</math></p>

# NC EMPT Initiatives & Development

## The Vision: NC EMPT Online

ECU Computer Science Capstone Course under Alex Vilkomir, CS Faculty

The screenshot shows a web application interface for managing questions. At the top left is the 'math' logo and a 'Home' button. The top right contains settings, a dark mode toggle, and a 'Logout' link. A left sidebar lists navigation options: Home, User Account Management, Manage Role Transfer Requests, Testing, Manage Board, and Django Administration. The main content area is titled 'Manage Questions' and includes a breadcrumb 'Tests / New Test'. Below the title are 'View Test' and 'View Key' buttons. A summary box shows 'Test: New Test' and 'Format: | Created: 2025-09-01 | Footer: NC Early Mathematics Placement Testing 2025-2026'. A green success message states 'Question 4 updated successfully.' Below this is a section for 'Questions (4/32)' with a note: 'Click a question card to edit it, or click 'Add Question' on the next available slot.' Four question cards are displayed in a row:

Question 1	Question 2	Question 3	Question 4
What is your name	(No text)	(No text)	The number $\frac{\frac{2}{3}}{5} \cdot \frac{1}{2} - 8.5$ is equivalent to?
Obj: N/A	Obj: N/A	Obj: N/A	Obj: N/A

# NC K-16 SYSTEM | Updates

## NC Department of Public Instruction

- ▶ Charles Aiken, Section Chief, K - 12 Math, Science, and STEM

## The Launch Years Initiative

- ▶ Charles Aiken, Section Chief, K - 12 Math, Science, and STEM

## NC Community College System Office

- ▶ Aaron Mabe, State Director of Dual Enrollment

## UNC System Office

- ▶ Ulisa E. Bowles, Vice President for Enrollment Management

## NC EMPT Program Update

- ▶ Valerie DeBellis, NC EMPT Director, ECU Math Placement Coordinator

## HOT TOPIC - Student Success in Mathematics after Hurricane Helene

- ▶ Rudy Beharrysingh, Director, Math Assistance Center, UNC - Asheville
- ▶ Sibley Bryan, Director, Math & Computer Sci Tutoring Ctr, WCU



# Affected by Hurricane Helene



**Appalachian**  
STATE UNIVERSITY

UNIVERSITY of NORTH CAROLINA  
**ASHEVILLE**



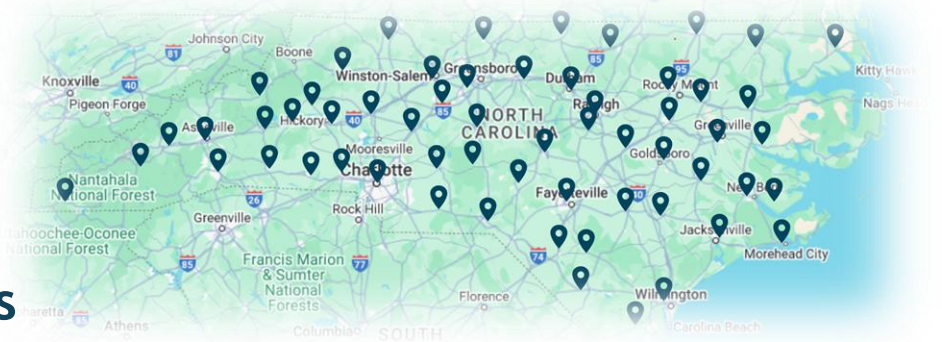
**Western**  
**Carolina**  
UNIVERSITY



North Carolina  
School of Science  
and Mathematics  
-- Morganton



**26 of our 58 NC  
Community Colleges**





Rudy Beharrysingh UNC- A



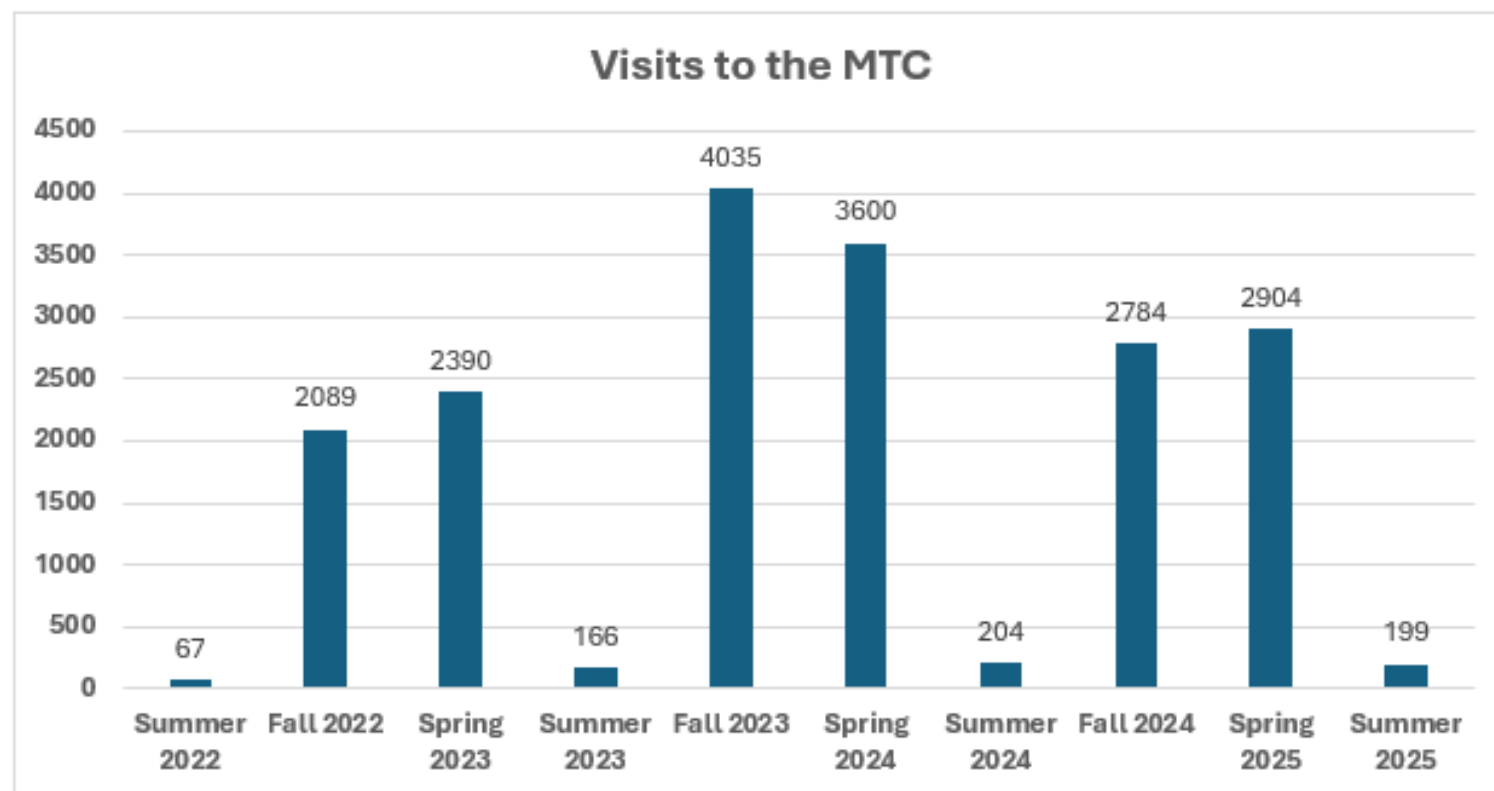
## A Post Helene Symposium at UNC - Asheville

## WCU Math Tutoring and Math Pathways Update

October 10, 2025

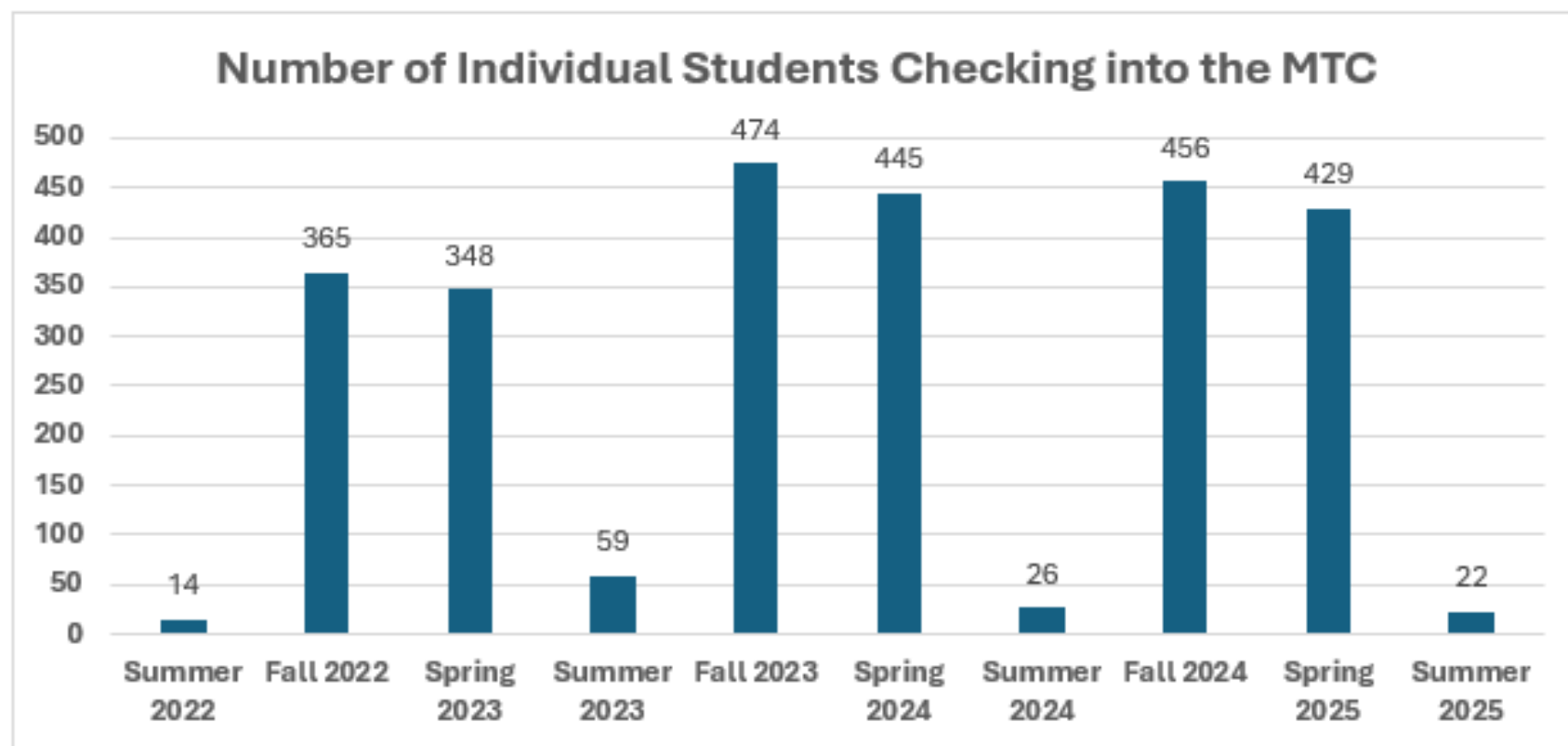
### Student Visits

The following table shows the number of visits from Summer 2022 through Summer 2025 as of July 30, 2025



## Individual Student Visits

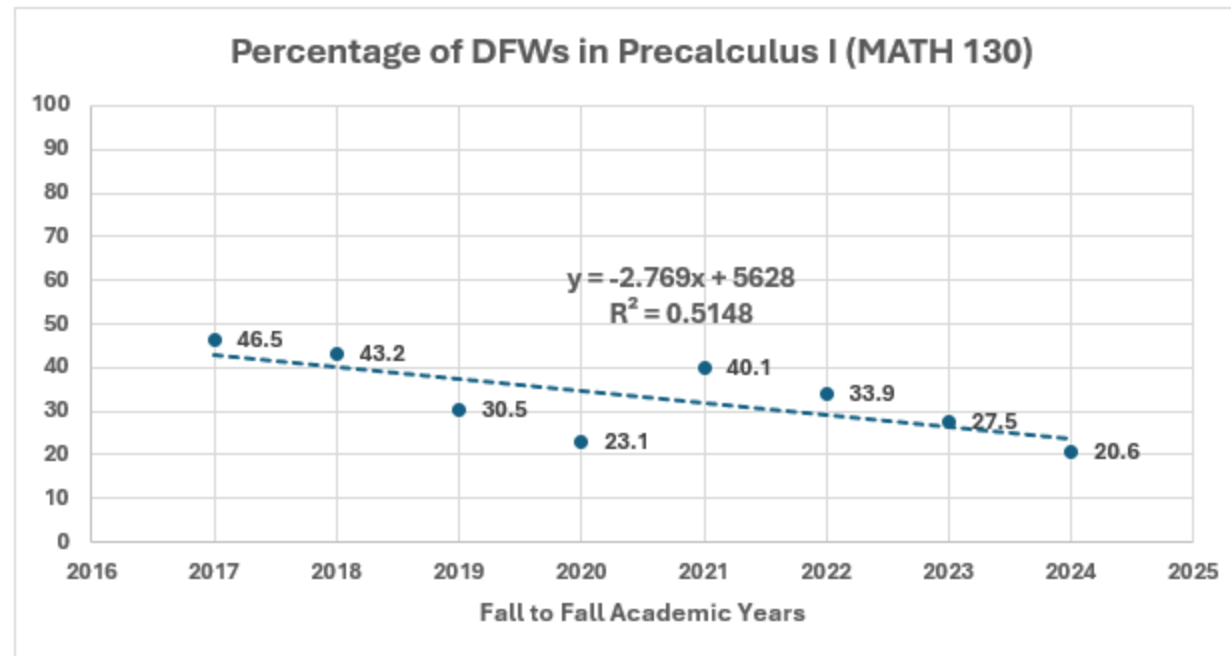
The following table shows the number of individual students who visited the MTC (same terms as above)



## Update on Math Pathways and DFWs in MATH 130

Sibley Bryan, WCU

Beginning in the spring of 2018, the Division of Student Success and the Math and Computer Science Department looked into the DFW rate of MATH 130-College Algebra. After internal research, external research, cross-campus collaborations, workshops, grant funding, course redesign, and the addition of a new support course for MATH 130, MATH 100-Precalculus I Support, the DFW percentage-change is expressed in the table below as a function of fall-to-fall academic years.



The table above is the result of several factors that are not limited to: revised advising model for STEM students, redesign of courses, development of a support course, math placement (ALEKS) implementation, new instructional design, student outreach, tutoring services, informational sessions at Orientations, and integrated messaging to STEM students via [myWCU](#).

## Math Placement (ALEKS) Student Scores

- Since the full implementation of ALEKS in Fall 2022, the average ALEKS score out of 100 is 47.2.
- A score of 47.2 places students into MATH 130-Precalculus I without the support course MATH 100-Precalculus I Support.
- The median score is a 44. The most frequent score is 29.

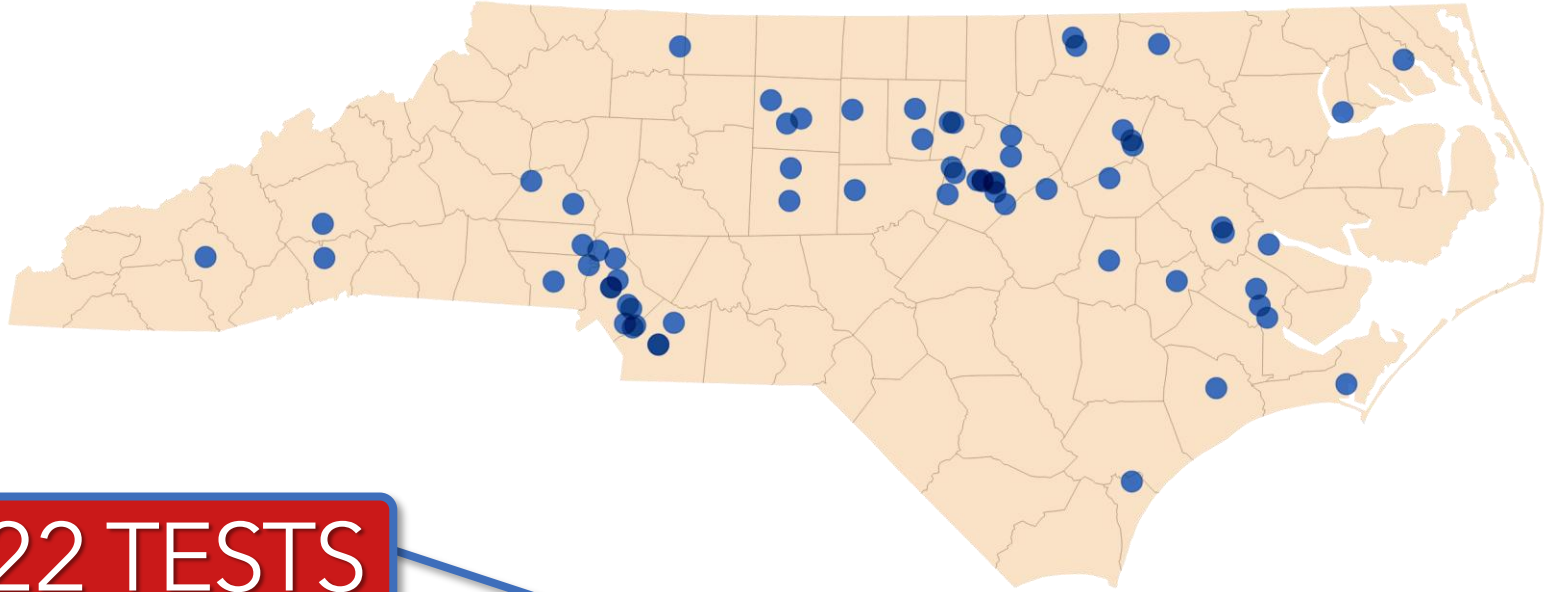


*Thank You*  
**FOR YOUR  
SERVICE**





# 2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR



5622 TESTS

139 TEACHERS

66 SCHOOLS

41 COUNTIES

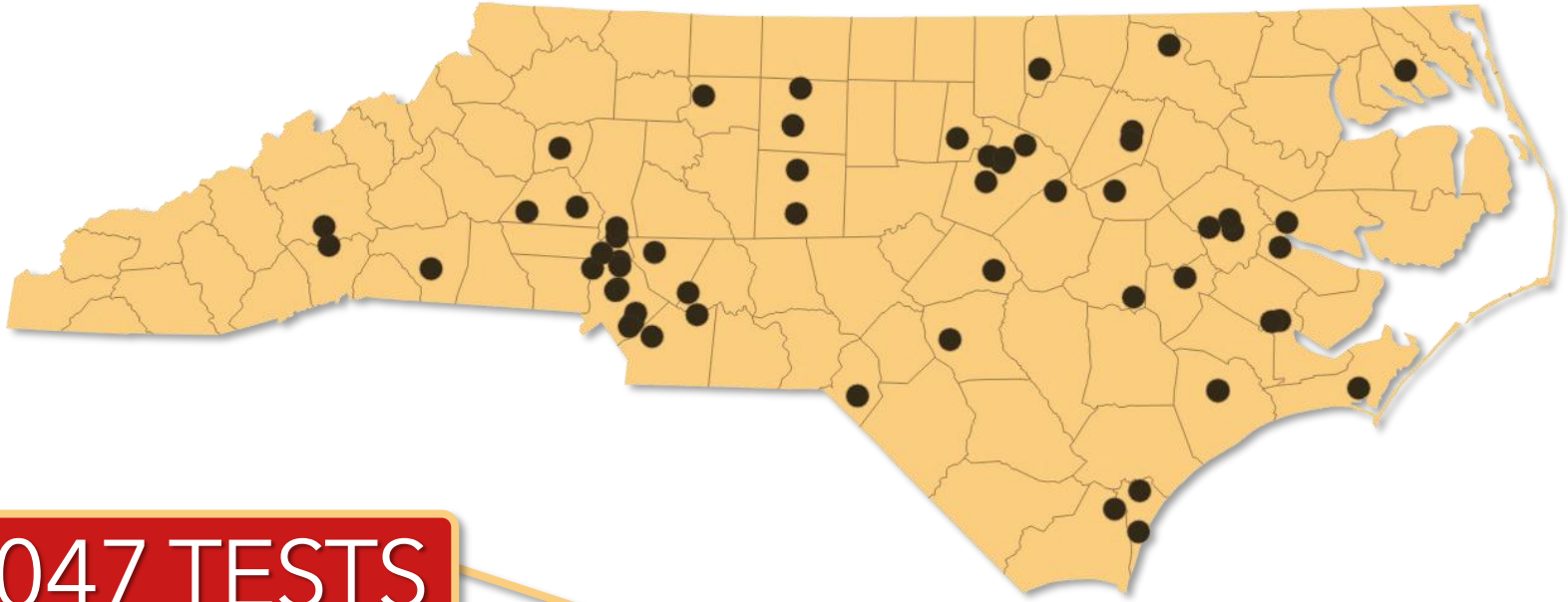
OVERALL AVERAGE PER STUDENT: 14.43 (out of 32)  
OPTION 2 AVERAGE: 15.77 (out of 32)

40 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

6 CHARTER SCHOOLS

20 PRIVATE SCHOOLS

# 2023-2024 SCHOOL YEAR



5047 TESTS

109 TEACHERS

58 SCHOOLS

34 COUNTIES

OVERALL AVERAGE PER STUDENT: 14.55 (out of 32)  
OPTION 2 AVERAGE: 15.67 (out of 32)

32 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

7 CHARTER SCHOOLS

19 PRIVATE SCHOOLS