

FOCUS LEARNING ACADEMY OF NORTHERN COLUMBUS

2025–2026

Annual Report

More than a school. A place to learn, belong, and grow together.



2025

Momentum Award

4.5 ★

Student Progress rating

4.5 ★

Gap Closing rating

Focus Learning Academy of Northern Columbus

Grades K–9• Public community charter school

1900 E Dublin-Granville Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43229-Phone # 614-547-0920

www.focusacademynorth.org



A Message from Our Founder

At Focus, we believe that when schools and communities grow together, students thrive.

We are proud to be a school deeply rooted in the community we serve. Our commitment goes beyond the classroom walls: we actively engage families, local organizations, and community partners to create a network of support that empowers every student and their family. Through meaningful partnerships and consistent outreach, we ensure that every voice is heard and every family feels connected.

Academically, we hold ourselves to a high standard and provide strong, student-centered instruction designed to meet learners where they are and help them reach their full potential. Our dedicated educators focus on building critical thinking, fostering curiosity, and preparing students for long-term success.

Equally important is our focus on behavioral and mental health. We recognize that students learn best when they feel safe, supported, and understood. That is why we are expanding our physical and mental health programming to provide access to counseling, social-emotional learning, and wraparound services that support the whole child—academically, emotionally, and socially.

Our school is not just located in the community—we are part of it. We celebrate its strengths, respond to its needs, and work every day to build a brighter future. Together, we are more than a school—we are a community.

Abdirizak Farah
Founder, Focus Learning Academies (FLANC & FLACC)

Our Leadership Team

Governing Authority

Yasir Ali , President	Aden Mohamed , Member	Abdi Soofe , Member
Abdifatah Abdi , Member	AbdulQadir Moallim , Member	

Superintendent	Treasurer	Principal
Travis Budd	Cynthia Mercer	Sid Casino

YEAR IN REVIEW

Academic Performance

The grades are in. On its 2025–26 Ohio School Report Card, Focus Learning Academy of Northern Columbus (FLANC) earned an overall rating of 3.5 out of 5 stars, meaning the school meets state standards. The results show a school where students are growing quickly, with clear work still ahead in reading and overall achievement.

4.5 ★

Student Progress: exceeded growth expectations

4.5 ★

Gap Closing: exceeds state standards

3.5 ★

Overall: meets state standards

2025–26 Ohio School Report Card

Component	Rating	What it means
Overall	3.5 of 5 ★	Meets state standards.
Student Progress	4.5 of 5 ★	Significant evidence that the school exceeded student growth expectations.
Gap Closing	4.5 of 5 ★	Exceeds state standards in closing educational gaps for student groups.

Full state report card: reportcard.education.ohio.gov/school/print/142943

Where we are strongest: growth

FLANC’s highest ratings are in the two components that measure how much students improve and how well the school serves every student group. The state found significant evidence that FLANC students exceeded growth expectations, and the school exceeds state standards in closing educational gaps.

Where we are focused: reading and achievement

The state identifies achievement (Performance Index 66.0%) as an area needing support and K–3 early literacy (third-grade reading proficiency 23.4%) as an area needing significant support. Focus serves many students who are new to the country and to English, and strong growth is the foundation for raising these results. Early literacy and achievement are the school’s top priorities for the year ahead.

RECOGNITION

2025 Momentum Award



FLANC received the 2025 Momentum Award for our success illustrated in our school's report card. This Award is a testament to our longstanding commitment to our students and community. The Momentum Award is given to districts and school buildings that have demonstrated outstanding improvement in achievement while also continuing to show growth.

Continued growth

The Momentum Award and this year's 4.5-star Student Progress rating point in the same direction: FLANC students are making strong gains year over year.



WHO WE ARE

Mission and History

Our mission

To prepare students to live in and contribute to a changing world and engage in active, lifelong learning, Focus Learning Academies provides a balanced, varied school curriculum designed to meet the academic, cultural, and social needs of students from the diverse backgrounds of our community. Our mission is to empower students and their families.

Our history

Focus Learning Academy was founded in 2006 and is a public community charter school. Across the Focus Learning Academies network, we serve more than 1,000 students. Focus Learning Academies were founded to combat the unique challenges facing inner-city and urban students, including immigrants and refugees in central Ohio. For two decades we have been making a difference in the lives of children, and we look forward to serving our community for years to come.



Our values

- **Stand up and own it.** We encourage each student, educator, and staff member to make a positive difference every day.
- **Power of teams.** We embrace a community-oriented mindset that promotes an open-door policy and direct communication and collaboration between parents and school.
- **Passion for growth.** We foster the curiosity of each student and grow their desire to learn, so every student leaves equipped with the tools to tackle tomorrow's challenges.

TEACHING AND LEARNING

Academic Programs

English as a Second Language (ESL)

Our staff is highly trained and qualified to teach children who are new to the country, helping them bridge the gap between their native language and English.

Mathematics

Aligned with Ohio standards, we use Zearn Math to integrate personalized digital learning with our curriculum, helping students learn the precise math content they need to master.

S.T.E.A.M.

Focus Learning Academies employ the Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Music (STEAM) education model. We believe every part of STEAM is integral to the intellectual, emotional, and mental growth of our students.

Arabic Language Instruction

Focus Learning Academies offer dedicated Arabic language instruction for all enrolled students. The curriculum focuses on the alphabet and penmanship in the elementary years, then moves to word recognition and sentence structure in middle school.

SUPPORTING EVERY LEARNER

Student and Family Support

- **Educators.** Our teachers truly care. They work hard to help and motivate students and deliver a top-rated curriculum.
- **Classrooms.** We keep our classrooms and facilities clean and fully equipped for 21st-century learning.
- **Guidance.** Each student has guidance counselors and success coaches to help them do their best.
- **Resources.** Students have access to modern technology and hands-on opportunities to explore and learn.
- **Whole-child care.** We are expanding physical and mental health programming, including counseling, social-emotional learning, and wraparound services.

Free for every family

Free tuition· Free transportation· Free after-school tutoring· Free breakfast, lunch, and snacks

SCHOOL BUDGET AND FINANCE

Focus Learning Academy of Northern Columbus adheres to auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS) and the standards applicable to financial audits contained in the Government Auditing Standards issued by the Comptroller General of the United States. In addition to school treasurer, three members of the Board of Directors are designated as Audit Committee. This committee conducts a comprehensive monthly review of the school’s financial position, financial transactions, and procurement processes.

Key Financial Highlights Fiscal year 2025/26

756 Total students enrolled, full-time equivalent (FTE)	\$12,670,120 Total revenue	\$12,836,944 Total expenses
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Federal grants \$910,591 in total

Title I		\$587,452
Title II		\$53,429
Title III		\$59,806
Title IV		\$48,724
IDEA		\$159,382
ECSE		\$1,806

Assets and liabilities Liabilities include net OPEB and net pension liabilities*

Total assets		\$11,548,523
Total liabilities		\$13,886,729

* The school liabilities noted above include the net Other Post Employment Benefits (OPEB) and Net Pension Liabilities (NPL).

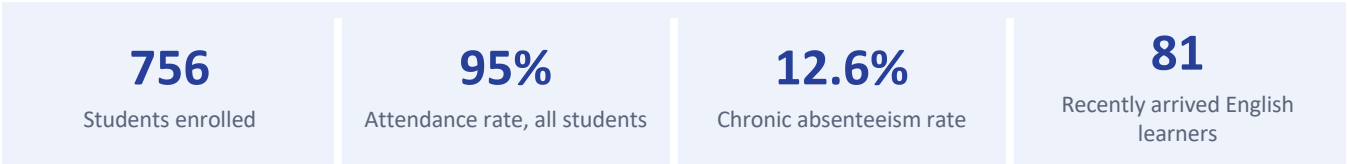
Additional Information

For additional information related to the school’s financial position please contact
cmercer@focusacademynorth.org

BY THE NUMBERS

Enrollment, Demographics and Attendance

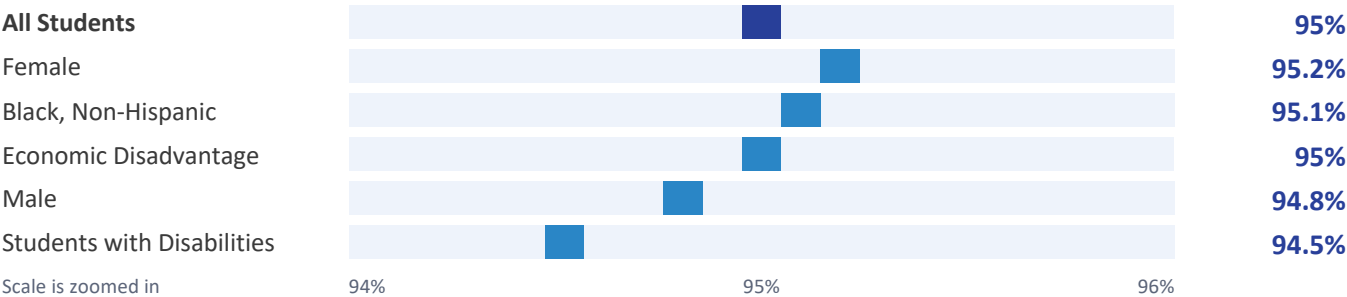
Our enrollment, demographics, attendance record and chronic absenteeism for the 2025–2026 school year.



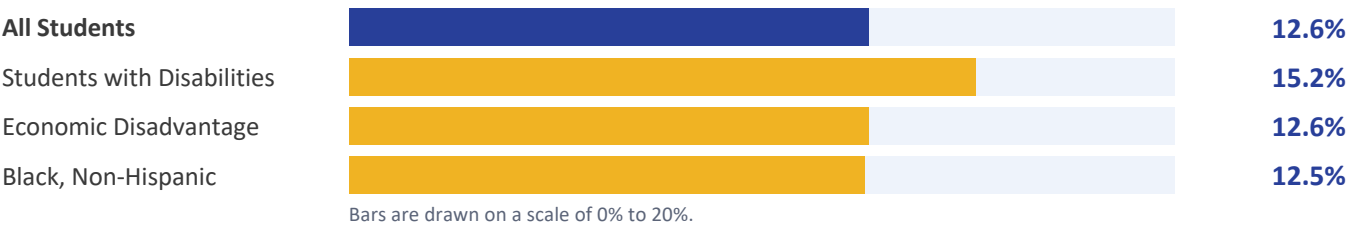
Who is enrolled Share of the 756 students in each reported group



Attendance rate by group Every reported group sits within one point of 95%



Chronic absenteeism by group Students with disabilities are 2.6 points above the school rate



About 1 in 8 students is chronically absent



Daily attendance averages 95%, yet 12.6% of students are counted as chronically absent. A strong average can hide a group of students who miss a lot of school.

BELONGING

Our community

This is an empathetic and passionate community of avid learners. We believe we are made better by embracing the ways in which we are different. Through partnerships with families, local organizations, and community partners, we are building a school where every family feels connected.

5/5 Review rating on GreatSchools.org	K–9 Grades served	1,000+ Students served across Focus Learning Academies
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Looking ahead

- Raise early literacy, the area the state identifies as needing the most support, so more students read proficiently by the end of third grade.
- Improve overall achievement and the Performance Index while keeping the strong student growth that earned 4.5 stars.
- Continue closing gaps for every student group.
- Keep expanding physical and mental health programming, including counseling, social-emotional learning, and wraparound services.

New Behavioral Health & Mental Health Program

- We have developed an organized services designed to support the mental health wellbeing of our students, manage stressors, and treat conditions related to mental and behavior health. The program provides individual and group therapies, counseling, and medication management.

Expanded Parent Academy

- This program is designed to education, empower and engage parents and guardians so they can better support children’s academic success and overall wellbeing. Courses for parents include ESL class, financial literacy courses, internet safety trainings, and more.

Join our community. Every student has a place to shine.

Focus Learning Academy of Northern Columbus · 1900 E Dublin-Granville Rd., Columbus, Ohio 43229 · Call 614-547-0920, Monday–Friday, 7:40 AM–4:00 PM. Ask about enrollment and a school visit.

Sources

Ohio Department of Education and Workforce, 2025–26 School Report Card, Focus Learning Academy of Northern Columbus (IRN 142943). 2025 Momentum Award. GreatSchools.org reviews. Focus Learning Academies school materials.