



November 4, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing this letter to notify you that Durant Road Elementary has been designated as both a North Carolina Low-Performing school and a federally identified Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education.

As defined in G.S. 115C-105.37: "The State Board of Education shall identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15." Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long North Carolina General Assembly session provides parents with an additional measure of school performance in the form of School Performance Grades.

School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At Durant Road Elementary, our achievement score for the 2023-2024 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grades 3-5 Mathematics, Grades 3-5 Reading, Grade 5 Science EOGs. Durant Road Elementary received a School Performance Grade of **D (only 1 point from a C)** and a growth designation of **Met** for the 2023–2024 school year. **(Reading Growth- Exceeded Growth, Math Growth- Met).**

In addition, per the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1111(d)(2), schools receive the federal identification of TSI-AT in North Carolina by having one or more of the following subgroups receive a subgroup performance grade score at or below the lowest 5% of schools across the state during the 2022-2023 academic year; and being identified as a consistently underperforming subgroup for the previous year. Subgroup performance scores are provided for the following subgroups of students: (1) Students with Disabilities, (2) Economically Disadvantaged, (3) Black, (4) White, (5) Hispanic, (6) Asian-Pacific Islander, (7) Multi-racial, and (8) English Learners. **At Durant Road Elementary, the subgroup that is underperforming is our Students with Disabilities.**

As a dually designated TSI-AT and NC low-performing school, Durant Road Elementary is required to develop a comprehensive improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement. Our comprehensive improvement plan will address the following areas:

- Classroom Management
- Standards-Aligned Instruction
- Professional Learning Communities
- Instructional Leadership
- Recruitment & Retention of Effective Teachers
- Support for Grade to Grade Transition

- Continued Implementation of a Tiered Instructional System
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Support Services
- Family and Community Engagement

We have set the following goals for Durant Road Elementary this year:

- By June 2026, Durant Road will implement data-driven instructional practices and curriculum enhancements to ensure that 60% of students will meet grade-level proficiency benchmarks aiming to close proficiency gaps across all demographics within 30% of the overall school proficiency.
- By June 2026, Durant Road will implement data-driven instruction for increase in student growth across all subject areas, with particular attention to closing achievement gaps among underrepresented student groups aiming to achieve 75% or greater student growth in subgroups as measured by EVAAS.

Here are some strategies that Durant Road Elementary will be implementing to improve student outcomes:

- Powering PLCs- A district initiative to strengthen the outcomes of PLCs (Professional Learning Community meetings that grade level teachers engage in weekly.)
- Implementing Bridges Math Intervention Curriculum
- Utilizing federal funding to increase the number of Intervention Teachers to support students in Tier 2 and Tier 3
- Small groups for reading and math to provide intervention and extensions to students to differentiate for their learning
- Utilizing federal funding to have an additional Assistant Principal/Behavior Coach to support teachers and students with behavioral needs that impede their learning or that of others
- Grade level/Department planning days to provide time for teachers to create standards aligned activities for all students

Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways you can help:

- Reach out to your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns about your child or to set up an appointment to meet with a school staff member who will be working with your child.
- Make sure that your child is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your child's homework and classwork that comes home in Monday folders.
- Monitor the progress your child is making and attend meetings with your child's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website, social media sites, and Class Dojo.
- Volunteer.
- Join the PTA

Additionally, listed below are a few resources available to help:

- Graduation requirements: [www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: [www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/)
- State student achievement test results: [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/)
- N.C. School Report Cards: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards>

We are committed to improving student performance. It is important to remember that just as no one single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about the performance of a school or the opportunities that our school provides. The intent of receiving these

designations is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your child.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Principal Sanchez at [tsanchez@wcpss.net](mailto:tsanchez@wcpss.net).

Sincerely,

Mrs. Sanchez

Principal