

November 1, 2023

Dear Washington Families,

As a parent/guardian of a student in Washington GT Magnet Elementary School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Washington GT Magnet Elementary, has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. Per ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), schools are identified as TSI-AT schools in North Carolina because one or more of the following subgroups received a subgroup performance grade score at or below the highest identified CSI-LP school's All Students group during the identification year; and is on the TSI-CU list for the subgroup(s) for the previous year. Subgroup performance scores are provided for the following subgroups: (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 our school, this subgroup is identified as students with disabilities. This subgroup of students continues to need additional targeted support. Our 2022-23 end of year data indicates that the students with disabilities subgroup did not meet proficiency, but did meet expected growth in both reading and math. Given that there is still a lot of work to be done, we will continue to work strategically to address the needs of all of our students, including those with disabilities.

This letter is to notify our parents and guardians of Washington Gifted and Talented Magnet Elementary School's intentions to improve educational outcomes for underperforming student subgroups and close achievement gaps for **all students**.

As a TSI-AT (ATSI) school, Washington Gifted and Talented Magnet Elementary School is required to develop an Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve outcomes for underperforming subgroups. The plan will also include strategies that our district or charter will employ to support Insert the name of the school's improvement efforts. The ATSI plan will address the following areas:

- Classroom Management
- Standards-aligned Instruction
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Instructional Leadership
- Recruitment & Retention of Effective Teachers
- Support for Grade-to-Grade Transitions
- Implementation of a Tiered Instructional System
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Support Services
- Family and Community Engagement

We have set the following goals for Washington GT Magnet Elementary this year:

The school implements a tiered instructional system that allows teachers to deliver evidence-based instruction aligned with the individual needs of students across all tiers.

- Instructional Teams develop standards-aligned units of instruction for each subject and grade level.
- The school will regularly communicate with parents/guardians about its expectations of them and the importance of the curriculum of the home (what parents can do at home to support their children's learning).

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, but it will require hard work on the part of staff, students and families. Here are some strategies Washington GT Magnet Elementary will be implementing to improve student outcomes:

Strengthening Professional Learning Communities and their focus on data-driven instructional practices.

- Offering regular opportunities for teachers to collaborate in order to strengthen intervention supports.
- Participating in relevant Professional Learning to make instructional adjustments that meet the needs of our students.
- Utilizing data to align student supports with identified areas of need.
- Meeting regularly as an Intervention Team to ensure the consistent review of relevant student data.
- Actively progress monitoring goals within Individualized Education Plans to adapt instruction as necessary.

Also, parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways we can work together:

- Ensure that both you and your child know the academic expectations set for your child this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your student's teacher(s).
- Call Catie Burnette, Principal, at 919-856-7960, if you have questions or concerns about your student 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.
- Monitor the progress your child is making and attend meetings with your child's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website and social media sites
 - [Washington Website](#)
 - [Washington Facebook](#)
 - Search for @WashingtonGTMagnetES and follow us on Instagram!
- Join [Washington GT Magnet Elementary PTA!](#)
- Volunteer. [Sign up here!](#)

Sounds like a lot but preparing our students so that they can succeed is not easy and is a group effort. Here are some resources available to help:

- Carolyn Schmidt, Instructional Facilitator and Literacy Coach, cschmidt2@wcpss.net
- Katy Heben, Intervention Team Facilitator, kheben@wcpss.net
- Graduation requirements: www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/
- State student achievement test results: 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 single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about a school's performance 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 student. Already, we have:

- Welcomed many new staff and students!
- Completed the renovation of our school gym!
- Restructured our teacher professional learning communities to support growth for ALL learners.
- Raised money through our PTA's Shining Star Fundraiser to help fund ongoing school program needs.
- Successfully and excitedly completed first quarter electives
- Started planning for our 2023 School Theater Production
- Celebrated our school's 100th anniversary!

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Catie Burnette at mburnette@wcpss.net or 919-856-7960.

Magically,



Catie Burnette

Principal