November 3, 2023

Dear Turner Creek families:

I hope the school year is off to a successful start for you and your child. I am writing this letter to let you know that Turner Creek 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. This letter is to notify our parents and guardians of Turner Creek’s intentions to improve educational outcomes for underperforming student subgroups and close achievement gaps for all students.

As a TSI-AT (ATSI) school, Turner Creek 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 Turner Creek’s improvement efforts. The ATSI plan will address the following areas:

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

We have set the following goals for Turner Creek this year:

* By June 2024, the overall staff perception that Turner Creek Elementary School is a good place to work and learn will increase from 66.13% to 75% as measured by the State/District TWC.
* By June 2024, Turner Creek Elementary will meet or exceed growth for all subgroups in all subject areas as measured by EVAAS, increase the percentage of students identified as College and Career ready for grades 3-5, and ensure that 80% or more of students in K-2 will meet or exceed reading proficiency as measured by mClass assessments.

Here are some strategies that we will be implementing to improve student outcomes:

* Teachers and students work together to create classroom goals that reflect skills taught in Second Step, our social and emotional learning curriculum. Goals can focus on growth mindset, emotion management, empathy and kindness, and problem solving.
* School counselors will use data to form small groups and teach self-regulation, coping skills, and skills for becoming independent learners.
* PLCs will analyze data to improve core instruction and support all student subgroups in reaching the level of rigor identified in the standards. PLCs will review disaggregated summative and benchmark assessment data in Literacy and Math with the purpose of creating action steps to improve opportunity gaps for our SWD, Black, and Hispanic subgroups.
* Teachers will engage in learning walks quarterly. Learning Walks are a tool to help improve our instructional craft. They are an opportunity for staff to visit classrooms. This practice leads to meaningful discussion and self-reflection.
* Teams will utilize WCPSS resources and plan evidence-based small group instruction aligned with targeted skills identified from assessment data.

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 Principal Kristin Small 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. <https://www.wcpss.net/turnercreekes>
* Volunteer.
* Join the PTA. <http://www.tce-pta.org/>

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://ncreportcards.ondemand.sas.com/src>

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 child. Already, we have:

* Implemented Second Step lessons in each classroom.
* Enhanced teacher collaboration through 2-hour uninterrupted planning for teams each week.
* Supported new teachers through a one-on-one planning period with veteran teachers.
* Created an organized system to track the implementation of interventions for each student.
* Engaged in the first round of learning walks and had meaningful conversations about the great work happening at Turner Creek and how we can continue to improve.
* Enhanced Professional Learning Communities by scheduling them at a time when our AIG teacher, ESL teacher, and other support staff can join.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Kristin Small at ksmall@wcpss.net

Sincerely,

Kristin Small, Principal