**WAKELON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

*Principal, Dena Nealy*

*Assistant Principal, Andrew Bahm*

8921 PI P P I N RO A D

ZE B U L O N , NC 27597

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**Wakelon Elementary**

**8921 Pippen Rd.**

**Zebulon NC 27597**

November 2, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly provides parents with an additional measure of school performance in the form of School Performance Grades. Beginning with the 2013–14 school year, the annual North Carolina School Report Cards display a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F for each school in the state.

The School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school’s achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students’ academic growth. At Wakelon, our achievement score for the 2022-2023 school year is based on how well our students performed on *: Grades 3-5 Mathematics, Grades 3-5 English Language Arts/Reading, Grades 5 Science, and additional indicators including English Learner Progress.*

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Wakelon elementary, has been designated as a low performing 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.”

Wakelon received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of (*Met.)* for the 2022–2023 school year. Although we are committed to improving this score, 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. (We are on track to increase our proficiency during the 23/24 school year. This school year at Wakelon we have intentional Small Groups that are targeting students who need intense support in both literacy and math, we have hired a full time Math intervention teacher, students are using Lexia Learning to help with additional supports as well as offer acceleration for students who are ready for next level schoolwork*.* We also have extra curricula opportunities for our students such as: Spanish, STEM, Community Music & Schools Club, Arts in Action, and a variety of Enrichment opportunities for our students during and after school)

As a low performing school, we are required to develop an improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve both the school performance grade and school growth score. The plan also includes how the superintendent and other central office administrators in the district will work with us and monitor the progress of our school. Our plan will be presented to our school board for approval at the November 7, 2023, meeting. The final plan will be

available for review on the Wakelon School Website.

One of our top priorities for 2023–2024 is to improve our School Performance Grade. There are a number of key programs we have in place to help improve student performance. These include:

● Implemented Lexia Learning (literacy practices that provide students with interventions to support grade level standards and skills.

● Implemented Core 5 (literacy practices that provide accelerated learning opportunities for students who are performing above their current grade level).

● Intense and targeted tier 3 intervention supports for all students who are performing below their current grade level.

● After school tutoring for all 3-5 students.

● Additional coaching and professional development/learning opportunities for all K-5 teachers and the teacher assistants.

We hope you will closely follow your student’s academic progress and work with his or her teacher(s) to help ensure they stay on track academically. Working together as a team, we can improve not only how well our students are performing individually, but how our school is performing. There is nothing more important to administrators and teachers at Wakelon than ensuring students are ready for the next step in their academic careers. I look forward to working with you to make sure your student is on track for success.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our School Performance Grade and how we plan to improve, please don’t hesitate to contact Principal Nealy at 919-404-3844.

Sincerely,

**Dena Nealy**

Principal