



October 29, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing this letter to notify you that Wendell Magnet 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 WMES, our achievement score for the 2023-2024 school year is based on how well our students performed on **Grades 3–8 Mathematics, Grades 3–8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grades 5 and 8 Science, NC Math.** Wendell Magnet Elementary received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of **Met Growth** for the 2023–2024 school year.

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.

As a dually designated TSI-AT and NC low-performing school, Wendell Magnet 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 (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 Wendell Magnet Elementary this year:

- By June 2026, all subgroups will increase in proficiency, with EL students increasing from 8% to 20% proficiency in reading. All students will increase from 41% to 46% proficiency in reading and 40% to 45% proficiency in math, as measured by EOG scores.
- By June 2026, 70% of our certified staff will agree/strongly agree that school leadership creates a culture of trust in the building as measured by the North Carolina Teacher Working Conditions survey.

Here are some strategies that Wendell Magnet Elementary will be implementing to improve student outcomes:

- Implement small group instruction to support all students
- Conduct learning walks to monitor the implementation of high impact instructional strategies
- Provide academic coaches at each grade level to support instruction in and out of the classroom
- Provide small group tutoring instruction 3 days a week through NC Education Corps

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

- Call the main office at 919-365-2660 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.
- 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 <https://www.wcpss.net/wendelles>
- Volunteer
- Join the Wendell ES PTA

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

- 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>
- Graduation requirements: www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/

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 Dana Dougherty-Primiano at ddougherty-primiano@wcpss.net

Sincerely,

Dana Dougherty-Primiano

Principal