



John Small Elementary School
4103 North Market Street Extension
Washington, NC 27889
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Leigh Ann Swinson, Principal
Tunmorya Bennett, Assistant Principal

11/30/2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing this letter to notify you that Insert name of the school has been dually 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. 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.

School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At Insert name of the school, our achievement score for the 2022-2023 school year is based on how well our students performed on (Insert appropriate measures here based on your school's grades. Include the following tests as appropriate: Grades 3-8 Mathematics, Grades 3-8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grades 5 and 8 Science. John Small Elementary School received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of "Did Not Meet" for the 2022-2023 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 2021- 2022 academic year; and being identified as a consistently underperforming subgroup in 2019-2020. 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, Insert name of the school is required to develop a comprehensive improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement. 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 comprehensive improvement plan will address the following areas (select applicable areas and remove the remaining 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 Insert name of the school this year:

- John Small School will create and maintain a healthy, safe, respectful, and responsible educational environment for all students, staff, parents, and community members by reducing office referrals by 20%.
- John Small Elementary School will increase proficiency in ELA, Math and Science by 10% as measured by the North Carolina End of Grade assessments, by using effective student centered learning practices.
- John Small will ensure each student is prepared socially, emotionally and academically to transition to the next grade level and school.
- John Small School will analyze data through content PLC's meetings weekly to drive core instruction. Problem Solving Teams will discuss data every 4 weeks. Professional development will be offered to support teachers in the implementation of core instruction and research based interventions through our site based coaches.
- John Small School will maintain consistent communication with families and stakeholders to ensure students and families are provided the tools to ensure academic growth and student success.

Here are some strategies that Insert the John Small Elementary School will be implementing to improve student outcomes:

- Elevate (a research based phonics reading program) built into the Master Schedule
- Dreambox (a research based mathematics program built into the Master Schedule
- School Wide Intervention Time built into the Master Schedule
- Content Planning for Teachers built into the Master Schedule
- Student Centered and Data Driven PLC Framework Cycle

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

- Ensure you and your child know the academic expectations for your child this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your child's teacher(s).
- Call Insert school contact person and phone number 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 [insert links].
- Volunteer.

- Join the PTO - Contact Ms. Danielle Brinson

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

- Bright Futures of Beaufort County: www.wbccchamber.com/bright-futures/
- 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 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. Already, we have:

- Continued with our Ron Clark House System and sorted new 4th grade students.
- We are continuing with Student Led Conferences where they share progress with parents and facilitate the conference.

If you have questions about the content of the letter, please contact Leigh Ann Swinson at lswinson@beaufort.k12.nc.us or 252-946-3901.

Sincerely,



Leigh Ann Swinson
Principal