

November 4, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing this letter to notify you that Wake Forest Middle School 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 Wake Forest Middle School, our achievement score for the 2023-2024 school year is based on how well our students performed on EOGs for grades 6-8 in Math, grades 6-8 in Reading, grade 8 Science EOG, and Math I EOC. Wake Forest Middle School received a School Performance Grade of "D" and a growth designation of "Did Not Meet" for the 2022-2023 school year, despite meeting growth in many areas.

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. While we are disappointed with this designation, it should be noted that Wake Forest Middle School showed an increase in various sub-group proficiency in all tested subjects and increased our school grade number from 51 to 54, one point shy of moving into a letter-grade of "C." We continue to work towards positive movement in our student achievement data to exit low-performing status.

As a dually designated TSI-AT and NC low-performing school, Wake Forest Middle 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 Wake Forest Middle School's improvement efforts. The comprehensive improvement plan will address the following areas:

- 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:

- By June 2025, all WFMS subgroups will increase in grade level proficiency by at least 5% on all EOGs/EOCs.
- By June of 2026, WFMS will establish a positive and inclusive school climate to improve teacher-student relationships, resulting in at least 75% of students across all demographic groups responding favorably to each of the "Teacher Student Relationship" questions on the WCPSS Student Survey.

Here are some strategies that Wake Forest Middle School will be implementing to improve student outcomes:

- Drive Time is a scheduled time for targeted academic and social-emotional enrichment and support for all students. Students using data from classroom teachers, Star Math, Star Reading, and other assessments.
- Weekly Professional Learning Community (PLC) meetings for staff to discuss relevant data from Star Math, Star Reading, and other assessments to identify additional supports needed for students.
- Increased Family Engagement opportunities and events to build a stronger partnership between school and home.

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

- Contact Delbert Jarmon (djarmon@wcpss.net), our Parent Liaison or your student's counselor or grade-level administrator at 919-554-8440 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, arrives on time, and attends school each day.
- Monitor your child's homework.
- Monitor the progress your child is making through PowerSchool and attend meetings with your child's teacher(s).
- Maintain two-way communication with teachers through Talking Points, e-mail, and phone calls.
- Keep track of our website (wakeforestms@wcpss.net) and Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/WakeForestMS/>)
- Volunteer.
- Join the Wake Forest Middle School PTSA (<https://wfms.givebacks.com/store>)

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

- 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>
- School Social Worker: Laura McIntyre (lmccintyre3@wcpss.net)

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 are providing opportunities in visual and performing arts; athletics; clubs - including Helping Hands and Student Council; and a CTE program focused on preparing our students to explore opportunities for future career and college pathways following high school.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Dr. Chris Bradford at cbradford@wcpss.net or 919-554-8440.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher Bradford". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Christopher Bradford, Ed.D.

Principal