October 19, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in Florence Elementary, I am writingthis letter to let you know that Florence Elementary*,* has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), North Carolina had to identify schools for targeted support and improvement. TSI-AT schools in North Carolina are those that have a subgroup that is under-performing. The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

As a TSI-AT school, Florence Elementary is required to develop a comprehensive plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement. The plan will also include how our district will support us and monitor the progress of our school. The comprehensive 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 forFlorence Elementary this year:

* *By 2022, Florence will decrease the achievement gap in proficiency between the lowest performing (SWD and AA) and the highest performing subgroup (W), as measured by the EOG reading and mathematics tests in grades 3-5 by at least 5%.*
* *By June 2022, Florence Elementary School will increase the school performance composite from 55.9% to a minimum of 60.9%.*

*Reading composite from 50.9% to 55.9%.*

*o 3rd Grade Reading from 54.1% to 59.1%.*

*o 4th Grade Reading from 54.9% to 59.9%.*

*o 5th Grade Reading from 44.2% to 49.2%.*

*Math composite from 58.8% to 63.8%.*

*o 3rd Grade Math from 62.8% to 67.8%.*

*o 4th Grade Math from 61.5% to 66.5%.*

*o 5th Grade Math from 52.6% to 57.6%.*

*5th Grade Science from 62.1% to 67.1%.*

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, but it will require hard work on the part of staff, students and families. Here are some strategies Florence Elementary will be implementing:

* Implement strategies for effective Professional Learning Communities that focus on data analysis, plans for interventions, and pre-planned daily checks for student mastery.
* Classroom teacher will employ corrective instruction to support students with standards that have not been mastered.

Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways we can work together:

* Make sure that both you and your student are aware of academic expectations set for your student this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your student’s teacher(s).
* Call Florence Elementary at 336-819-2120, 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 student.
* Make sure that your student is prepared and attends school each day.
* Monitor your student’s homework.
* Make sure that your student engages in classroom instruction each day face to face or virtually using the canvas platform.
* Monitor the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student’s teacher(s).
* Keep track of our website and social media sites. Our Twitter is @FESCowboys and Facebook is Florence Elementary School.
* Volunteer.
* Join the PTA

Sounds like a lot but preparing our students so that they can succeed is not easy and is a group effort. Here are some 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’re excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your student.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Chiyanna Young at [youngc3@gcsnc.com](mailto:youngc3@gcsnc.com) or 336-819-2120.

Sincerely,

Chiyanna Young

Chiyanna Young

Principal