



4418 South Alston Avenue
Durham, NC 27713
www.lowesgrove.dpsnc.net

Jessica Austin, Principal
Joseph Biggs, Assistant Principal
Jessica Faison-Johnson, Assistant Principal
Toshia Manning, Assistant Principal

Phone: 919.560.3946
Fax: 919.560.2102

October 26, 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 Lowe's Grove Middle School, our achievement score of 32.4% for the 2022-2023 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grades 6–8 Mathematics, Grades 6–8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grades 8 Science, NC Math 1, and additional indicators including English Learner Progress.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Lowe's Grove Middle School 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."

Lowe's Grove Middle School received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of Met Expected Growth 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. A few of our opportunities and accomplishments include:

- Exceeding growth during 2021-2022 school year
- Growth in proficiency in seven of nine tested areas
- Recognized as a Magnet School of Distinction and NC Schools to Watch
- Classes with a CTE - Business & Agriculture focus
- Mentoring clubs: We Are Kings, We Are Queens, Grupo LEAL
- Community Partnerships with Biogen, Communities in Schools, Durham Children's Initiative, Duke University, and Fidelity Investments,

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 will also include how the superintendent and other central office administrators in the district will work with us and monitor the progress of our school.

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:

- 45-minute Schoolwide intervention block during the school day in reading and math.
- Progress monitoring for all students in core classes.
- Increased instructional time that includes an intervention block.
- School wide tutoring program offered afterschool from Mondays - Thursdays.



4418 South Alston Avenue
Durham, NC 27713
www.lowesgrove.dpsnc.net

Phone: 919.560.3946
Fax: 919.560.2102

Jessica Austin, Principal
Joseph Biggs, Assistant Principal
Jessica Faison-Johnson, Assistant Principal
Toshia Manning, Assistant Principal

- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) and professional development for faculty and staff.
- Data-driven instruction and decision making.
- Recruitment & retention of effective teachers.

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 as a whole. There is nothing more important to administrators and teachers at Lowe's Grove Middle School 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 Jessica Austin at jessica_austin@dpsnc.net or 919-560-3946.

The preliminary plan will be presented to the Board of Education on October 26, 2023. The final plan will be approved by the Board of Education on November 16, 2023. Please submit any input or suggestions in writing to the principal by Friday, November 10, 2023.

Sincerely,

Jessica Austin
Jessica Austin