

October 26, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope you and your child are enjoying a successful start to the school year. We are excited to have you a part of the Y.E Smith Elementary School, and we are committed to supporting your child's academic success in every way. I wanted to write and provide our an update on the status of our school.

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 **Y.E. Smith Elementary School** our achievement score for the 2022-2023 school year is based on how well our students performed on **state measured assessments. Y.E Smith is measured by the following assessments:**

**Grades 3–5 Mathematics End of Grade assessment,
Grades 3–5 English Language Arts/Reading,
Grades 5 Science End of Grade test
English Learner Progress for Grades 3-5**

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that **Y.E. Smith Elementary 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."

Y.E Smith Elementary School received a School Performance Grade of **F** and a **growth designation of Met 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. **At Y.E Smith Elementary we provide the following supports for our students:**

- **After School Tutoring**
- **Small Classes for more targeted student support**
- **Project Base learning opportunities through partnerships with local museums.**

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 several key programs we have in place to help improve student performance. These include:

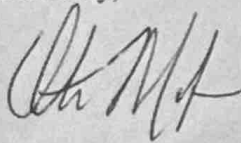
- **After School Tutoring provided for targeted subgroups**
- **R.O.A.R: School-wide Reading Intervention Program targeting foundational reading skills.**
- **Partnership with Museum of Life and Science to support Grade 5 Science Standards**

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. There is nothing more important to administrators and teachers at **Y.E. Smith Elementary 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 myself via email at Otis_maben@dpsnc.net or phone (919) 560-3900.

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,



Mr. Otis Maben
Principal