



November 15, 2023

I am writing to inform you that Y.E. Smith Elementary School has been designated as a Targeted Support and 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, Y.E. Smith Elementary School 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, and Family and Community Engagement.

We have set the following goals for Y.E. Smith Elementary this year:

- By June 2024, increase the State Letter Grade from 39 F 45 D or higher as measured by EVAAS and Proficiency.
- By June 2024, K-2 students overall GLP proficiency from to 75.5% or higher according to Mclass assessments.
- By June 2024, increase K-2 students overall GLP proficiency from to 75.5% or higher according to I-Ready Math Performance
- By June 2024, 3-5 students overall GLP proficiency from to 51.4% or higher according to Math EOGs assessments.
- By June 2024, 3-5 students overall GLP proficiency from to 42.9% or higher according to Reading EOGs assessments.
- By June 2024, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade students overall GLP proficiency from to 58.3% or higher according to Science EOGs assessments.

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, and it will require hard work on the part of staff, students, and families. Here is some strategies Y.E. Smith Elementary School will be implementing:

- *Meeting weekly as Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to focus on learning, results, and collaboration.*
- *Professional Development aligned with Eureka Math, HMH Literacy, and ESL support.*
- *Master schedule to include built in acceleration time, ROAR.*
- *Full-time Parent Liaison/Behavior Support Staff to support students and staff.*
- *Full-time Social Worker to connect families with appropriate community resources.*
- *Co-located services providing mental health support to students (at school) and families at home.*
- *School counselor provides classroom support, small group interventions, and one-on-one support to students.*
- *Walk-through feedback to staff by the administrative team on a tiered basis to support teacher growth and professional development.*
- *After-School Tutoring for Grades 3-5 to provide students with intervention.*

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

- 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).
- Contact Lisa Smith , Assistant Principal, at [Lisab\\_smith@dpsnc.net](mailto:Lisab_smith@dpsnc.net) or (919) 560-3900 ext. 40230 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 your student is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your student's homework.
- Monitor and limit the amount of time your student spends watching television and playing video games.
- Monitor the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student's teacher(s).
- Volunteer.
- Join the *Y.E Smith Parent Teacher Association (PTA)*. You may contact *Otis Maben, Principal*, at [otis\\_maben@dpsnc.net](mailto:otis_maben@dpsnc.net) or (919) 560-3900 ext. 40222 if you are interested in joining or if you have any questions.

Sounds like a lot but we owe it to our students to work together to prepare them well for life after graduation. Here are some resources available to help:

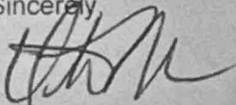
- Angelia Ball-Smith, School Social Worker, [angelia\\_ballsmith@dpsnc.net](mailto:angelia_ballsmith@dpsnc.net) (919) 560- 3900, ext 40237
- Graduation requirements: [www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: [www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/)
- State student achievement test results: [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/)
- N.C. School Report Cards: [www.ncreportcards.org/](http://www.ncreportcards.org/)

We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your students. Already, we have:

- \$5000 Wellness Grant from the Durham Public Schools Foundation to support our efforts students and staff Social and Emotional Health
- Started our After-School Tutoring Program for 3-5 students.

We look forward to collaborating with you as we work together – to *ignite the limitless potential* of all our children.

Sincerely,



Otis Maben  
Principal,  
Y.E. Smith Elementary School