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Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student in Lowe's Grove Middle School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Lowe's Grove Middle School 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. Subgroup performance scores are provided for the following subgroups: (1) Students with Disabilities, (2) Economically Disadvantaged, (3) Black, (4) White, (5) Hispanic, (6) Asian-Pacific Islander, (7) Multi-racial, and (8) English Learners. This opportunity intends to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

As a TSI-AT school, Lowe's Grove Middle 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
- Family and Community Engagement

We have set the following goals for Lowe's Grove Middle School this year:

- By June 2025, our school will exceed expected growth and increase its overall school composite from 25.9% to 31.9% or higher as measured by the North Carolina End of Grade Tests for 6-8 reading and math, math I, and 8th-grade science and EVAAS data.
- By June 2025, our school will decrease our suspension rate by 10% or more from 27.72% to 17.2% or lower as measured by the Educator's Handbook End of Year report.
- By June 2025, our school will increase the percentage of agreement from 66% to 90% or higher, that Lowe's Grove is a good place to work and learn as measured by the Teacher Working Conditions survey.

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 Lowe's Grove Middle School will be implementing:

- Capturing Kids' Hearts (CHK) tools with fidelity, specifically Social Contracts, Discipline Model
- Evidence-based intervention(s), using universal screening data to place students for differentiated instruction and strategic intervention to increase the overall performance of Students with Disabilities.
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) use the decided-upon protocols to align instruction and respond to student data.

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

- Ensure that both you and your student are aware of the 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 Dr. Warnele Carmon at 919-560-3946 x46319 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.
- Monitor the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website: www.dpsnc.net/Lowes-Grove.
- Volunteer.

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/
- 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>

We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your students. If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Dr. Warnele Carmon at warnele_carmon@dpsnc.net or 919-560-3946 x46319.

Sincerely,

Dr. L. Judd-Manning

Dr. L. Judd-Manning