

Renee Price, Principal  
5001 Red Mill Road  
Durham, NC 27704  
Phone: (919)560-3535  
Website: <http://scs.dpsnc.net>

The School for  
Creative  
Studies



---

September 2020

Dear SCS Families,

I am writing to inform you that The School for Creative Studies has been identified as a Targeted Support and Improvement-Consistently Underperforming (TSI-CU) school to watch by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for the 2020-2021 school year. A school is identified as TSI- CU school to watch in the North Carolina Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) State Plan when one or more subgroups [Students with Disabilities (SWD) Economically Disadvantaged Students (EDS), English Learners (ELS), and Race/Ethnicity (Black, White, Hispanic)] receive an “F” letter grade in the ESSA accountability system for multiple years. These subgroup letter grades do not reflect upon any individual student, but rather identify general groups of students for whom we must rapidly increase student proficiency.

Schools identified as TSI-CU are eligible to exit TSI-CU status, which occurs annually after the 2020-2021 school year by receiving a letter grade of “D” or better for the identified subgroup(s) in the most recent and previous school years (two consecutive school years).

Based on the 2017-2018 academic performance data, our school had one subgroup (Students with Disabilities) receiving an “F” letter grade. Should one or more identified subgroups continue to perform at the current level in 2019-2020, our school will be identified as a TSI-CU in the 2020-2021 school year and will be required to implement interventions. Please keep in mind that there is no academic performance data from school year 2019-2020.

While SCS is a TSI-CU school to watch, our school will receive support from our school district specifically focused on improving the performance of the identified subgroup(s). Additionally, this opportunity will provide educators and State and local leaders with flexibility regarding specific requirements of the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) in exchange for rigorous and comprehensive State-developed plans designed to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

We continue to strive for improvements in student achievement. Our vision for SCS is There is no box and we practice the 4 C’s—Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, and Community.

We have set the following goals for this year:

- Increase reading proficiency

Renee Price, Principal  
5001 Red Mill Road  
Durham, NC 27704  
Phone: (919)560-3535  
Website: <http://scs.dpsnc.net>

The School for  
**Creative  
Studies**



- Increase math proficiency
- Increase Graduation Rate

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

- Implement Intervention Block
- Graduation Committee to monitor seniors' progress
- tutoring opportunities

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).
- Call your child's teacher 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 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 PTSA.

Sounds like a lot, doesn't it? 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:

- 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 look forward to partnering with you as we work together to ignite the limitless potential of all of our children.

Sincerely,

Renee Price