

School Performance Grades of D or F Low Performing School

800 Clayton Road
Durham, North Carolina 27703

October 27, 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 Southern School of Energy and Sustainability, our achievement score for the 2022-2023 school year is based on how well our students performed on *NC Math 1, NC Math 3, English II, and Biology*, and additional indicators including *English Learner Progress, ACT/ACT WorkKeys, Math Course Rigor, and the 4-Year Cohort Graduation Rate*.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Southern School of Energy and Sustainability, 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."

Southern School of Energy and Sustainability received a School Performance Grade of **D** and a growth designation of **Did Not Meet** 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.

Such as:

- Career based academic academies (Biomedical, Technology, Business, and Architect and Constructional Engineering academies).
- Skills Trade Pathway
- Comparable Advance Academic Program
- as well as a Partnership with Durham Tech through their College and Career Promise initiative

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:

- Building an Attendance Committee to monitor daily attendance
- Continue with a school-wide intervention block (Spartan Strive) designed to support students academically and Emotionally
- Weekly Student Services meetings to discuss the Graduation Cohort Rate
- Incentive program to assist with promoting great academics

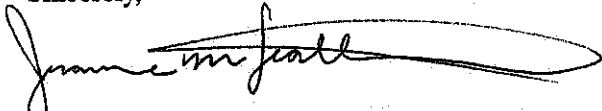
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We hope you will closely follow your student's academic progress and work with his or her teacher(s) to help ensure they stay on track academically. Working together as a team, we can improve not only how well our students are performing individually, but how our school is performing as a whole. There is nothing more important to administrators and teachers at Southern School of Energy and Sustainability, 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 Principal Jerome M Leathers at Jerome_Leathers@dpsnc.net or 919-560-3968 x 68226..

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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jerome M Leathers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Principal, Southern School of Energy and Sustainability