



November 15, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope you and your child are enjoying a successful start to the school year. We are excited to have you at Neal Middle School, and we are committed to supporting your child's academic success in every way. Our teachers and staff have a great year ahead for our students.

I am writing this letter to let you know that Neal Middle 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 design and implement a procedure to identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that receive a 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."

School Performance Grades are calculated for all schools as required by the North Carolina Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan and North Carolina General Statute 115-C 83.15. A-F letter grades are assigned to all public schools in the state. School Performance Grades are assigned using a weighted model of 80% achievement and 20% growth. Schools use a defined set of indicators for the letter grades, as seen below.

Elementary/Middle Indicators

<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Reading/Mathematics Assessments• English Learner Progress• Science Assessments	80%
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• EVAAS School Growth (Reading, Mathematics and Science)	20%

These grades are used to identify schools in need of Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) as required by ESSA. Also, as required by state law, School Performance Grades and a school's growth status determines whether a school is low-performing or a district is low-performing. Lists of CSI schools and low-performing schools and districts will be posted on the Accountability Services website after approval by the State Board of Education in September.

Neal Middle School received a school performance grade of F and, as a low performing school, is 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 Durham Public Schools will work with us and monitor our progress. School Improvement Plans were presented to our school board on October 18. Once approved by our school board and the NC Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), our School Improvement Plan will be linked on our local district website (www.dpsnc.net) as well as the NCDPI's website (www.ncpublicschools.org).

We have a lot to be proud of at Neal Middle School, including meeting growth, increasing family engagement, and providing teachers with an effective professional learning plan. We remain focused on continuous improvement and I look forward to working with each of you as we focus on providing the best education for our children. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any questions about our School Improvement Plan or how you might get more involved in supporting the growth of Neal Middle School.

Sincerely,
Terrence Covington