

Burton Magnet School
1500 Mathison Street
Durham North Carolina 27701

Dr. Kimberly Ferrell, Principal

Dr. Mondrae Williams, Assistant Principal

November 20, 2018

Dear Families,

I am writing to inform you that Burton Magnet Elementary 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 2018-2019 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 subgroups 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 to receive an “F” letter grade. Should one or more identified subgroups continue to perform at the current level in 2018-2019, our school will be identified as a TSI-CU in the 2019-2020 school year and will be required to implement interventions.

While Burton Magnet Elementary 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 is that our students are well rounded Global citizens. Our mission is that the stakeholders of the Burton Magnet Elementary community, will work collaboratively to nurture and educate students that inquire to be responsible lifelong learners, and thrive to be productive citizens of our global society.

We have set the following goals for Burton Magnet Elementary this year:

- **Goal # 1: By June 2019, students in 3rd-5th will increase reading proficiency from 45.3%to 60.3% as measured by the ELA EOG test. (Strategic Goal Priority 1: Increase Academic Achievement)**
- **Goal # 2: By June 2019, students in 3rd-5th will increase math proficiency from 51.4% to 66% as measured by the Math EOG test. (Strategic Goal Priority 1: Increase Academic Achievement)**
- **Goal # 3: By June 2019 (EOY), 75% of the Kindergarten students will be at level C/D as measured by mClass assessment. (Strategic Goal Priority 1: Increase Academic Achievement)**
- **Goal # 4: 5. By June 2019, students with disabilities, will increase reading and math proficiency from 47.2% to 52.2% as measured by the EOG test.**
- **Goal #5: 7. By June 2019, student attendance will increase from 94.8% to 96.0% as measured by the Powerschool attendance system.**

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, and it will require hard work on the part of staff, students and families. Strategies *that Burton Magnet Elementary* will use include:

1. Guided reading best practices (decoding, fluency, comprehension) to increase reading proficiency of students with disabilities.

2. Lexia to increase foundational skills with targeted students. (250 or lower on Achieve 3000)
3. Text talks with tier 2 words to strengthen vocabulary development and comprehension.
4. Skill level groups (SWD- LD/OHI, Bubble, Tier 2 students) to target needs and learning styles during 30-minute school wide intervention time.
5. Achieve 3000 when students reach a Lexile level of 250 or higher to increase reading comprehension.
6. Corrective reading program for decoding and comprehension.
7. Intensive after school tutoring targeting SWD-LD/OHI, bubble and tier 2 students using intervention strategies for student mastery of grade level standards. (2 days a week)
8. Reward system for students who complete the Literacy Academy.

Parent/Family engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are 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).**
- **Burton Magnet Elementary will have literacy/math academy to provide academic support and training for families of identified students (SWD-LD/OHI, Bubble, Tier 2) beginning January 2019.**
- **Call Dr. Kimberly Ferrell at (919)-560-3908 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 students spend watching television and playing video games**
- **Monitor the progress students make and attend meetings with the teacher(s)**
- **Volunteer**
- **Join the PTO. Contact Ms. Monica Pridgen at (860)-978-3726**

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:

- ***Ponsella Brown, School Counselor***
- ***Tameka Pigeo, Social Worker***
- ***Maria Salazar, Parent Liaison***
- **Graduation requirements: www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/**
- **K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/**
- **State student achievement test results: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/**
- **N.C. School Report Cards: www.ncreportcards.org/**

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

- **NC PBIS Exemplar School Award in 2018**
- **Capturing Kids Hearts National Showcase School 2018**
- **Exceeded growth in all subgroups: African American, Hispanic, Economically Disadvantaged, Limited English Proficiency.**

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

Sincerely,

Dr. Kimberly Ferrell