



DURHAM
PUBLIC SCHOOLS

SOUTHERN

SCHOOL OF ENERGY AND SUSTAINABILITY

Subject: Important School Updates and Performance Data for 2023-2024

Dear Staff, Parents and Guardians,

I hope this message finds you well. As we begin the new school year, I would like to share some important updates regarding our school's performance and key statistics for the 2023-2024 academic year. Transparency and partnership with our families are essential to fostering a supportive and successful learning environment for all students.

Enrollment and Attendance

Our current student enrollment stands at **1,448**, a steady increase from previous years. However, we continue to work on improving our **student attendance rate**, which currently sits at **83.8%**. We encourage all parents to help us promote regular attendance, as it is crucial to academic success.

Demographic Breakdown

We are proud of the diverse community we serve. Below is a breakdown of our student demographics for this year:

- **Hispanic:** 50.4%
- **Black:** 42.9%
- **White:** 2.7%
- **Asian:** 0.6%
- **Two or More Races:** 3.1%

Academic Performance

While our students continue to show progress, we recognize there are areas where improvement is needed. Our **Grade Level Proficiency (GLP)** stands at **22.7%**, a slight decline from the previous year. The school is actively implementing strategies to address this, and we are confident that with hard work and dedication, we will see improvement in these metrics throughout the year.

Behavior and Climate

We have also seen some fluctuations in student behavior data:

- **Short-term suspensions** have decreased to **15.9%** of students, down from 18.1% last year. We are committed to reducing this further through restorative practices and positive behavior interventions.
- The overall **teacher working conditions** score has increased to **88.5%**, reflecting a positive environment for our educators, which in turn benefits our students.
- We are continuing to work on improving the student climate, and we value your feedback and support in this area.

Graduation and Post-Secondary Readiness

Our **four-year cohort graduation rate** is currently **76.0%**, a slight decrease from prior years. Additionally, we are focusing on increasing **ACT composite scores**, currently averaging **14.3**, and boosting participation in **ACT/WorkKeys**, with a participation rate of **28.3%**. We will continue to provide resources and support to help students prepare for these important milestones.

Support for All Learners

We are dedicated to supporting all learners, including those from economically disadvantaged backgrounds and English learners, whose proficiency levels we aim to improve. Currently, **26.2%** of our student body consists of English learners, a growing group that we are committed to serving with the best possible resources.

We believe in the potential of each student and are committed to creating a nurturing environment that fosters academic growth, personal development, and community engagement. Your involvement is critical to our success, and we thank you for your continued support.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss these updates in further detail, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Warm regards,
Kenneth Barnes
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