



DURHAM PERFORMANCE LEARNING CENTER

November 15, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student in ***Durham Performance Learning Center*** I am writing this letter to let you know that ***Durham Performance Learning Center***, has been designated as a Comprehensive Support & Improvement Low-Graduation Rate (CSI-LG) school and has been designated as a NC low-performing school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(c)(4)(D)(i), North Carolina had to identify schools for comprehensive support and improvement. CSI-LG schools in North Carolina are high schools that have a 4-year cohort graduation rate of less than 66.7%. 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.” The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

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 ***Durham Performance Learning Center***, our achievement score for the 2021-2022 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.*

Durham Performance Learning Center received a School Performance Grade of Alternative (ALT) 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.

- All core classes at Durham Performance Learning Center utilize the Modern Classrooms framework which means each teacher has developed standards aligned: learning targets, assignments, and assessments based on mastery of the content.



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- Durham Performance Learning Center supports the whole student with SEL weaved into our master calendar. Each student is assigned an Advisor that they meet with daily.
- Every student is celebrated at least once each month with Phoenix Fun Days designed to build SEL skills and connection.

As a CSI-LG and as a school designated as NC low-performing, ***Durham Performance Learning Center*** is required to develop a comprehensive plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement. The plan will also include how our district will support us and monitor the progress of our school. The comprehensive plan will address the following areas:

- Classroom Management
- Standard-aligned Instruction
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Instructional Leadership
- Recruitment & Retention of Effective Teachers
- Support for Grade-to-Grade Transitions
- Implementation of a Tiered Instructional System
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Support Services
- Family and Community Engagement

We have set the following goals for ***Durham Performance Learning Center*** this year:

- By June of 2024, PLC will have reached the following goals in the below listed areas according to our Alternative School Accountability Model.
 - Participation: 95%
 - School Proficiency: 8.0%
 - EVAAS Growth: 71.1%
 - CGR: 67.7%
 - Persistence: 80%
 - Earned Credits: 60%
 - Overall Composite: 65.64%
 - Designation: Succeeding

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

- ***Durham Performance Learning Center's students and staff understand that the goal is graduation and to reach that goal we must focus on academics, behavior, and attendance. To that end, each teacher completes the ABA Concerns Google Doc twice***



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each month to share concerns for students that are missing the mark in these three areas. Administrators, the MTSS Coordinator, and Student Support Services meet monthly to review the document and work closely with students and staff to help students get back on track for graduation.

- *Each teacher is required to contact parent at least once each grading period to make parents and guardians aware of their student's progress.*
- *In partnership with Communities in Schools, Durham Performance Learning Center has a graduation coach that works with students individually to assist them continuously improve in academics, behavior, and attendance so that they can reach the goal of graduation.*

Parent 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 ***Durham Performance Learning Center at 919-560-9190*** 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 the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website and social media sites ***at [DPLC](#)***.
- Volunteer.

Sounds like a lot but preparing our students so they can succeed is not easy and is a group effort. Here are some resources available to help:

- ***You can always reach out to us if you have any questions about your student's academic progress, behavior, or attendance. Our phone number is 919-560-9190. You can also email your student's teachers and you can find their email address on our website at [DPLC](#).***
- Graduation requirements: www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/
- State student achievement test results: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/
- N.C. School Report Cards: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards>

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

- **Held our First Quarter Awards Celebration to honor students who made the**



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honor roll, completed classes, and who have exemplified the character traits celebrated by Durham Public Schools.

- **Held multiple Phoenix Fun Days to connect with our students.**
- **Hosted the Communities in Schools Career Fair to offer students an opportunity to network with vendors from across our great city.**

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact *Principal Kesha Futrell* at **919-560-9190** or email me kesha_futrell@dpsnc.net.



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