



## SOUTHWEST ELEMENTARY

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*Sharing our Similarities, Celebrating our Differences*

*Compartiendo nuestras semejanzas, celebrando nuestras diferencias*

Nick Rotosky, Principal

Torrey Flores, Assistant Principal



Dear Families,

I am writing to inform you that Southwest has been identified as a Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI-CU) school to watch by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction for the 2020-2021 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, Economically Disadvantaged Students, English Learners, 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. Since we were unable to administer EOGs due to COVID-19, one subgroup, students with disabilities, received an "F" letter grade based on the 2018-2019 academic performance data. **It is important to understand that letter grades are based on 80% proficiency and 20% growth. Although all students in this subgroup did not meet grade level proficiency, the subgroup did meet or exceed growth in all subject areas with a positive growth percentage overall.** Schools identified as TSI-CU are eligible to exit TSI-CU status by receiving a letter grade of "D" or better for the identified subgroup in the most recent and previous consecutive school years.

As 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. Additionally, this opportunity will provide flexibility regarding specific requirements of the North Carolina *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.

At Southwest, our vision is that all children have the opportunity to achieve their maximum potential becoming productive members of a culturally diverse society. We focus on each individual student's growth knowing an increase in growth directly correlates with an increase in student proficiency. **In 2018-2019, our school exceeded growth overall and met or exceeded growth in all subgroups and subjects.** This year, our students with disabilities need to experience higher achievement levels, and it will require hard work on the part of staff, students, and families. We structured the master schedule to ensure students who receive multiple services also receive grade level content from their classroom teacher. We will meet with each teacher at least three times per year to review individual student data and set goals for progress.

Family engagement is also at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways you can help:

- Make sure you and your student are aware of academic expectations for your student this school year.
- Ensure your student is prepared and engaged in school each day.
- Monitor the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student's teacher(s).
- Review your student's class assignments and homework including i-Ready and Raz-Kids (Reading A to Z).
- Monitor and limit the amount of time your student spends watching television and playing video games.
- Participate in the Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and family engagement events.
- Call me at 919-560-3972 if you have questions or concerns about your student or to set up an appointment to meet with a school staff member who works with your student.

Here are some resources available to help:

- Graduation requirements: [www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: [www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/)
- State student achievement test results: [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/)
- N.C. School Report Cards: [www.ncreportcards.org/](http://www.ncreportcards.org/)

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

Sincerely,

Nick Rotosky  
Principal