



W.G. Pearson Magnet Elementary School
3501 Fayetteville Street, Durham,
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Friday, October 16, 2020

Dear Tiger Families,

I am writing to inform you that W.G. Pearson STEAM Elementary School 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 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, 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 subgroup(s) in the most recent and previous school years (two consecutive school years).

Based on the 2018-2019 academic performance data, our school had one or more subgroups receiving an “F” letter grade. Should one or more identified subgroups continue to perform at the current level in 2020-2021, our school will be identified as a TSI-CU in the 2021-2022 school year and will be required to implement interventions.

While W.G. Pearson 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 for W.G. Pearson is to prepare all students for a bright future and we appreciate your continued support!

We have the following goals for W.G. Pearson this year:

- Reading:
 - 3rd Grade: 35.4%
 - 4th Grade: 43.7%
 - 5th Grade: 43.4%
- Math:
 - 3rd Grade: 43.1%
 - 4th Grade: 60.6%
 - 5th Grade: 52.6%
- Science:
 - 5th Grade: 50%
- Attendance:
 - Student: 95%
 - Certified Staff: 95%

Home of the Tigers

Caroline Linker, Principal

Tracey Lockhart, Assistant Principal

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, and it will require hard work on the part of staff, students, and families. Here are some strategies that W.G. Pearson will be implementing:

- Daily Intervention Blocks in K-5
- Weekly/Quarterly Attendance Incentives
- Continuous Professional Development Sessions for Teachers
 - Sessions are selected based on observational data and teacher needs.

Parent/Family 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.
- Call your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns about your student or to set up an appointment to meet.
- Make sure that your student is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your student's homework
- Monitor and limit the amount of time your student spends watching television and playing video games
- Monitor the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student's teacher(s)
- Volunteer
- Join the Parent Teacher Association

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:

- Delbert Jarmon, Community and School Liaison for W.G. Pearson
- Jackie Love, School Social Worker
- 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:

- Increased student enrollment from last year
- Increased involvement in our Parent Teacher Association (PTA)
- Increased attendance rates for students and teachers

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

Sincerely,

Caroline Linker

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