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Jason B. Atkinson, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent*

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September 18, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

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 the school’s achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students’ academic growth. At Dublin Primary, the achievement score for the 2022-2023 school year is based on how well the students performed on the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Reading and Math End-of-Grade Assessments.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Dublin Primary has been designated as a low performing school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. 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.”

Dublin Primary received a School Performance Grade of “C” and a growth designation of “exceeded expected growth” 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 the school provides.

A low performing school is required to develop an improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve both the school performance grade and school growth score. The plan will also include how the superintendent and other central office administrators in the district will work with, and monitor the progress of our school. The school is already engaged in the work of refining our plan and will present the plan to the school board at their next meeting, which will be held on Monday, October 9, at 6:00 PM, where the plan will be presented for approval. The final plan will be available for review on the school’s website.

One of our top priorities for 2023-2024 is to improve our School Performance Grade. There are a number of key programs and initiatives that the school has in place to help improve student performance.

These include:

- Ensuring students have a 90-minute ELA and a 90-minute Math Block
- Ensuring students have a 30-minute intervention block each day

- Installed new playground equipment, incorporating STEAM activities.
- Implementing Healthy Active Children - minimize injuries and discipline
- Strengthening community partnerships
- Updating and rebranding to highlight our school
- Hired a Migrant tutor/EL tutor - 5 days a week
- Using Heggerty Phonics lessons daily to enhance reading skills (K-4)
- Assigning daily math practice to enhance math skills with a focus on two-step word problems in 3rd and 4th grades.
- Providing weekly communication with families through Remind 101, communication folders, parent engagement nights, and other resources.
- Providing incentives and rewards for positive behavior.
- Recognizing students with the school shout-out board who are doing exceptional things in order to promote positive social and academic expectations.
- Creating a climate of excellence in all that we do
- Changed start time for staff and students to maximize instructional time

We hope you will closely follow your student's academic progress and work with his or her teacher(s) to help ensure they stay on track academically. Working together as a team, we can improve not only how well our students are performing individually, but how the school is performing as a whole. There is nothing more important to us than ensuring students are ready for the next step in their academic careers. We look forward to working with you to make sure your student is on track for success.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding the School Performance Grade and how the school plans to improve, please don't hesitate to contact Mr. Jason Folsom, principal at Dublin Primary, by calling (910) 862-2202, or by email, [jfolsom@bladen.k12.nc.us](mailto:jfolsom@bladen.k12.nc.us).

Sincerely,

Jason B. Atkinson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent