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Jason B. Atkinson, Ed.D.
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September 16, 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As a parent/guardian of a student at Tar Heel School, I am writing to inform you that Tar Heel School has been designated as a Targeted Support and Improvement Consistently Underperforming (TSI-CU) by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), North Carolina had to identify schools for targeted support and improvement. TSI-CU schools in North Carolina are those that have a subgroup that is under-performing. The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

As a TSI-CU school, Tar Heel School 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
- Standards-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

Specific goals and strategies have been developed by the school and are a part of the School Improvement Plan. To review the school improvement plan, please visit the link, <http://www.indistar.org> and enter the following information:

ID: GuestS15615

Password: GuestS15615

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, but it will require hard work on the part of staff, students and families. Below are some strategies that Tar Heel School will be implementing:

- Use student performance data to identify strengths and challenges
- Regularly analyze assessment results to track progress and adjust strategies
- Provide a licensed retired teacher(s) to tutor students that need additional support with reading, math, and science skills.
- Offer enrichment programs for high-achieving students and additional support for striving students
- Provide individualized instruction to students based on needs and data results

- Enhance collaboration among teachers to share best practices and instructional strategies

Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. A few ways we can work together include:

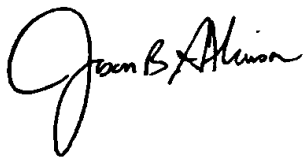
- Make sure that both you and your student are aware of academic expectations Make sure that your student is prepared and attends school each day
- Monitor your student's homework
- Monitor the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student's teacher(s)
- Keep track of the school website and school social media sites
- Always reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns

Collaboratively, we can work together to ensure that our students are successful in meeting their academic goals. We are excited about this school year and are working diligently to ensure it is successful for your student. Here are some resources available to help you learn more about academic standards and achievement results:

- K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/
- State student achievement test results: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/
- NC School Report Cards: <https://ncreports.ondemand.sas.com/src/>

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Mrs. Vanessa Ruffin, principal of Tar Heel School, at (910) 862-2475 or by email at vlruffin@bladen.k12.nc.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jason B. Atkinson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial "J".

Jason B. Atkinson, Ed.D.
Superintendent