

1489 US Highway 701 South
PO Box 37
Elizabethtown, NC 28337

Phone: (910) 862-4136
Fax: (855) 860-6170

Jason B. Atkinson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

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September 16, 2024

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 Elizabethtown Primary, the achievement score for the 2023-2024 school year is based on how well the students performed on the 3rd and 4th Grade Reading and Math End-of-Grade Assessments.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Elizabethtown 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."

Elizabethtown Primary received a School Performance Grade of "D" and a growth designation of "met expected growth" for the 2023-2024 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. Elizabethtown Primary School has made significant growth over the last two years with the 2023-2024 growth percentage of 80.3.

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 central office administrators and I will work with, and monitor the progress of Elizabethtown Primary. The school is already engaged in the work of refining its plan to present to the Board of Education at the October meeting, scheduled for 6 p.m. on Monday, October 14, 2024. The final plan will be available for review on the school's website.

One of our top priorities for 2024-2025 is to improve our School Performance Grade. There are a number of key programs and initiatives the school has in place to help improve student performance:

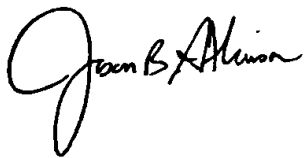
- Provide professional development for all staff on:
 - Research-based intervention strategies
 - Documentation within the MTSS process
 - High probability instructional strategies

- Teachers completing training and implementing the “Science of Reading”
- Focus on small groups and targeted one-to-one instruction based on student needs
- Data meetings with teachers and students
- Grade-level support and planning for teachers
- Additionally, tutors will work with students across grade levels as needed

We encourage you to actively engage in your student’s academic journey and invite you to collaborate with their teacher(s) to help ensure they stay on track for success. 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 appreciate your partnership and support to make it a successful school year.

If you have any questions regarding the School Performance Grade or the school’s plans for improvement, please don’t hesitate to contact Mrs. Kristy Smith, principal at Elizabethtown Primary, by calling (910) 862-3380, or by email, kbsmith@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