



**J. W. McLauchlin ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

326 NORTH MAIN STREET

RAEFORD, NC 28376

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David Renninger - Principal

Tracy Roberson - Assistant Principal

Oct. 4, 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 our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At J.W. McLauchlin Elementary School, our achievement score for the 2021-2022 school year is based on how well our students performed on the following state assessments: Grades 3-5 Mathematics; Grades 3-5 English Language Arts//Reading and Grade 5 Science. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that J.W. McLauchlin Elementary School 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."

J.W. McLauchlin Elementary School received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of Meet for the 2023–2024 school year. Although we are committed to improving this score, it is important to remember that just as no single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about a school's performance or the opportunities that our school provides. Our students have opportunities to be involved in various activities or groups that extend beyond the classroom. These include:

- Beta Club
- Speech and Debate Team
- Battle of the Books
- Robotics
- Literacy Night

- STEM Night
- Community Outreach
- Military Recognition Activities

As a low performing school, we are 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 also includes how the district's superintendent and other central office administrators will work with us and monitor our school's progress. We have already engaged in refining our plan and presented the plan to our school board on Sept. 27, where the plan was presented for approval.

The final plan will be available for review on our school website at <https://mes.hcs.k12.nc.us/>

One of our top priorities for 2022–2023 is to improve our School Performance Grade. There are a number of key programs we have in place to help improve student performance. These include:

- Increasing the percentage of students from K-5 across all subgroups who are performing at a proficient level on state assessments - We will utilize various means to accomplish this goal. Teachers will implement a strong core education which will ensure that all students are taught at the appropriate level of rigor as identified by NC state standards. Small group instruction will take place regularly to ensure that students' individual needs will be met. Intervention will take place daily which will enable students to be groups according to level and needs. Students that require more intensive support will receive it through the support of our intervention specialist, EC department or tutoring services.
- Ensuring that all of our students have a conducive learning environment in which the highest levels of learning can take place - All students will receive weekly Social-Emotional Learning lessons through our school counselor. Our school counselor and school social worker will conduct lunch groups in which they can meet with identified students. Safety drills will be routinely conducted with safety walk-throughs taking place regularly to make our campus safe for all students and staff.
- Providing increased learning opportunities for our students through the use of blended learning methods - As a one-to one school system, all students have access to an electronic device. Teaching strategies will include a blend of online and offline activities. When students have an absence from school, they will be able to access classwork assignments at home. Safety measures are in place to keep our students safe and families informed regarding any possible online concerns.
- Hiring highly qualified individuals and providing opportunities for their continued professional growth - School openings will be posted using a variety of methods. A team consisting of school administrators and teachers will interview all applicants and review their qualifications. Beginning teachers will be provided a mentor to help support them in the classroom. The academic coach will be available to provide needed support or professional development in any areas in which teachers may be experiencing a challenge. The school

administrative team will provide positive reinforcement to teachers for their achievements in the classroom and school environment.

- Create more opportunities for parents and community members to participate in the activities of the school. - Numerous after-school events will be planned in which families can be present. Parents will have the opportunity to participate as a member of our SIT team to help make decisions regarding the school's operations. Quarterly meetings with school administrators will give families and community members the chance to learn about the school's upcoming events and to express concerns or ask questions regarding the school procedures or practices. Opportunities for community partners to participate in school endeavors will be encouraged.

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 how well our students are performing individually and how our school is performing as a whole. Nothing is more important to administrators and teachers at J.W. McLauchlin Elementary than ensuring that students are ready for the next step in their academic careers.

I look forward to working with you to ensure your student is on track for success.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our School Performance Grade and how we plan to improve, please don't hesitate to contact Principal David Renninger at 910-875-8721 or email [drenninger@hcs.k12.nc.us](mailto:drenninger@hcs.k12.nc.us).

Sincerely,

David Renninger, Principal