



West Hoke Middle School

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Ms. Deidre Gales, Principal
Mr. James Kline, Assistant Principal
Ms. Christina Campbell, Assistant Principal



October 14, 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 West Hoke Middle School, our achievement score for the 2023-2024 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grades 6–8 Mathematics, Grades 6–8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grade 8 Science, and NC Math 1. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that West Hoke Middle 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."

West Hoke Middle School received a School Performance Grade of "D" and a growth designation of "Met 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 our school provides.

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 will also include how the superintendent and other central office administrators in the district will work with us and monitor the progress of our school. We are already engaged in the work of refining our plan and our plan was presented to the school board for approval on Wednesday, September 25, 2024. The final plan will be available for review at <https://www.hcs.k12.nc.us/>.

One of our top priorities for the 2024–2025 academic school year is to improve our School Performance Grade. There are several key actions we have in place to help improve student performance. These include:

- Meeting expected growth by June 2025 by increasing grade level proficiency by a minimum of 5% on all end-of-grade assessments for grades 6-8 Reading, 6-8 Math, and grade 8 Science by implementing high-quality instruction that meets the needs of all students.
- Increasing the availability of resources and opportunities that support the overall well-being of students, as measured by student perception data and SEL Panorama Well-Being Survey data.
- Decreasing problematic behaviors, discipline referrals, and suspensions, as measured by school-wide

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discipline data, to help foster a school climate and environment that is safe, positive, and conducive to student learning.

- Increasing student engagement and academic achievement by providing students with a personalized and flexible learning experience through a blended learning instructional approach, as measured by observations, assessments, and interventions.
- Improving teaching and learning experiences by embracing technological platforms that will increase student collaboration, student engagement, teacher efficacy, teacher productivity, and parental involvement, as measured through TWC data and student/parent perception data.
- Increasing the percentage of teachers who meet or exceed student academic growth annually, as measured by EVAAS, by strengthening targeted instructional support provided by school and district instructional leaders.
- Improving the school's support system for all professionals, as measured by staff perception data and TWC data, to help foster a school culture that promotes and supports professional growth and ongoing collaboration among colleagues and peers.
- Increasing parent, family, and community engagement to help strengthen the school's culture, community support, and partnerships between stakeholders, as measured by Title I Surveys, school event participation data, and SIT parent representative perception data.
- Improving communication efforts between the school and its community to help strengthen teacher-parent relationships, reduce absenteeism, and improve student outcomes, as measured by PFCE data, parent surveys, TWC data, and end-of-year academic performance data.

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 our school is performing as a whole. There is nothing more important to administrators and teachers at West Hoke Middle School 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 our School Performance Grade and how we plan to improve, please don't hesitate to contact your school's principal, Ms. Deidre Gales, at 910-875-3411 or by email at dgales@hcs.k12.nc.us.

Sincerely,

Ms. Deidre Gales