



Clarke Elementary School

Principal: Dr. C'monee' Wilkins
Assistant Principal: Mr. Dan Sandlin

November 8, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am writing this letter to notify you that the North Carolina State Board of Education has dually designated Clarke Elementary School as both a North Carolina Low-Performing school and a federally identified Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school.

Designation Background

As defined by G.S. 115C-105.37, low-performing schools receive a performance grade of D or F and have a school growth status of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth." Since 2013, North Carolina School Report Cards have assigned letter grades based on 80% achievement (student proficiency) and 20% academic growth. Clarke's 2023-2024 achievement scores improved notably in Grades 3-8 Mathematics (13.10% to 23.60%) and Grades 3-5 Reading (15.90% to 19.70%), with a 5th-grade Science score of 17.19%. However, Clarke received a grade of D and did not meet growth expectations.

In addition, per the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1111(d)(2), schools receive the federal identification of TSI-AT in North Carolina by having one or more of the following subgroups receive a subgroup performance grade score at or below the lowest 5% of schools across the state during the 2022-2023 academic year; and being identified as a consistently underperforming subgroup for the previous year. Subgroup performance scores are provided for the following subgroups of students: (1) Students with Disabilities, (2) Economically Disadvantaged, (3) Black, (4) White, (5) Hispanic, (6) Asian-Pacific Islander, (7) Multi-racial, and (8) English Learners.

Our Comprehensive Improvement Plan

As a dual-designation school, Clarke Elementary is required to develop a detailed improvement plan to address:

- Classroom Management
- Standards-aligned Instruction
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Instructional Leadership
- Effective Teacher Recruitment & Retention
- Tiered Instructional System Implementation
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Support Services
- Family and Community Engagement

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Phone 252-438-8415 Fax 252-438-6193



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School Goals for 2024-2025

1. Academic Proficiency (Grades 3-5): Increase Reading proficiency to 30%, Math to 40%, and 5th Grade Science to 40%.
2. Early Literacy & Math Skills (K-2): Improve the percentage of students meeting benchmark levels by 40%.
3. Behavioral Improvements: Reduce short-term suspensions and ISS incidents by 15%.
4. Social & Emotional Learning: Ensure all staff provide emotional support and intervention guidance.
5. Community Engagement: Increase participation in school events and partnerships by 20%.

Strategies for Achieving Our Goals

- Goal 1: Grades 3-5 Proficiency – Engaging, targeted lessons, small-group instruction, and extra tutoring based on student data.
- Goal 2: K-2 Early Literacy & Math Skills – Foundational skills activities, early assessments, and added tutoring.
- Goal 3: Reduce Suspensions – Strengthened Positive Behavior and Intervention System, restorative practices, and family partnerships.
- Goal 4: Social & Emotional Support – Classroom time for Social Emotional Learning, counseling services, and support in emotion management.
- Goal 5: Community Involvement – Family events, volunteer opportunities, and accessible school activities.

Parent and Family Involvement

Your engagement is vital to our school improvement efforts. Here is how you can help:

- Know your child(s) academic expectations. Your child's teacher(s) can provide a list of learning objectives.
- Contact the school at 252-438-8415 or Class Dojo with questions or concerns or to arrange meetings.
- Please ensure your child attends school daily and completes homework. If you have attendance concerns, contact Mrs. Harrell-Terry, our social worker.
- You can monitor your child's academic progress, attend meetings, and stay updated through our website (<https://clarke.vcs.k12.nc.us/>) and social media (Facebook: Clarke Elementary Bulldogs).
- You can join our Parent Teacher Organization by contacting Mrs. Krystle Lindsey, Clarke's Community Schools Coordinator, or volunteer at school events.



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Resources for Parents

- Graduation requirements: www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/
- Academic standards: www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/
- Student achievement results: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/
- N.C. School Report Cards: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards>

Our Commitment

We are dedicated to improving student performance. Remember, no single grade or score tells the full story of a student or a school. This designation is an opportunity to enhance outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, and improve instructional quality.

- **Quick Wins** – Increased PBIS support, enhanced family communication, launched "Let's Go Learn" for MTSS, focused on high-yield strategies like SMART annotation, and strengthened our instructional coaching.
- **School Fix-Ups**: We added fitness parks and new playground equipment, opened a Community Schools Resource Center, and refreshed facilities.
- **Special Programs** – Clarke Community Schools partnership through Student U, monthly community events (Back to School Bash, Health Fair, Trunk or Treat, Thanksgiving Dinner), a School Community Garden, Beta Club, and Optimistic Grant support for student empowerment.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact me at cwilkins@vcs.k12.nc.us or 252-438-8415.

Sincerely,
Dr. C'monee' Wilkins
Principal