



November 11, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year is off to a successful start for you and your child. I am writing this letter to let you know that **Simkins Elementary School** has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. Per ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), schools are identified as TSI-AT schools in North Carolina because one or more of the following subgroups received a subgroup performance grade score at or below the highest identified CSI-LP school's All Students group during the identification year; and is on the TSI-CU list for the subgroup(s) for the previous year. Subgroup performance scores are provided for the following subgroups: (1) Students with Disabilities, (2) Economically Disadvantaged, (3) Black, (4) White, (5) Hispanic, (6) Asian-Pacific Islander, (7) Multi-racial, and (8) English Learners. This letter is to notify our parents and guardians of **Simkins' students** intentions to improve educational outcomes for underperforming student subgroups and close achievement gaps for all students.

As a TSI-AT (ATSI) school, **Simkins Elementary School** is required to develop an Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve outcomes for underperforming subgroups. The plan will also include strategies that our district or charter will employ to support **Simkins'** improvement efforts. The ATSI plan will address the following areas:

- Classroom Management
- Instructional Leadership
- Recruitment & Retention of Effective Teachers
- Implementation of a Tiered Instructional System

We have set the following goals for **Simkins Elementary School** this year:

By June 30, 2025, Simkins Elementary will increase its overall Performance Composite by at least 3 percentage points, from 32.7% to 36%.

By June 2025, Simkins Elementary school will reduce the number of chronic absences from 31% to 25%. This includes reducing the number of Tier 3 attendance students to less than 40.

By June 2025, Simkins Elementary school faculty will increase teacher capacity in literacy instruction by ensuring 100% completion of district and state required licensure requirements.

By June 2025, Simkins Elementary will implement a tiered instructional system that allows teachers to deliver evidence-based instruction designed with the individual needs of students across all tiers.



Here are some strategies that we will be implementing to improve student outcomes:

Increased Academic Achievement	Reduce Chronic Absences	Increase Teacher Capacity	Implement Tiered academic and behavioral Instruction
Within the 24-25 school year, our school plans to support the provision of effective core instruction by becoming an Opportunity Culture school. With Title 1 funds, we have elected to purchase 1) a math Multi-Classroom Leader (MCL) and 2) An additional school counselor (0.3). Both of these positions will support Core instruction, one in math and the other in socioemotional learning.	<p>Perfect Attendance will be celebrated weekly, monthly, and quarterly with class and individual student awards.</p> <p>All teachers will utilize ClassDojo to communicate with parents on a regular basis. Parents will have the opportunity to pick up their child's report card in person each quarter with report card pickups. This allows for continued conversation regarding student attendance and its impact on teaching and learning.</p>	<p>Teachers will receive support in completing licensure requirements, including EdTPA and all Praxis exams.</p> <p>All teachers will be observed on a Comprehensive or Standard cycle in order to provide feedback regarding teaching and learning on a consistent basis.</p>	<p>Teachers will create classroom management plans to set, teach, and positively reinforce desired behaviors and outline consequences for negative behavior.</p> <p>Tutors will support supplemental and intensive instruction.</p> <p>The MTSS model will be used in determining students' academic and behavioral needs.</p>

Also, parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways we can work together:

- Ensure that both you and your child know the academic expectations set for your child this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your student's teacher(s).
- Call Simkins Elementary at **336-697-6070** if you have questions or concerns about your student or to set up an appointment to meet with a school staff member who will be working with your child.
- Make sure that your child is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your child's homework.
- Monitor the progress your child is making and attend meetings with your child's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website, social media sites, and ClassDojo,
- Volunteer.
- Join the Parent Teacher Association (PTA), which meets every 3rd Thursday of the month.

Additionally, listed below are a few resources available to help:

- Graduation requirements: www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/
- State student achievement test results: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/
- N.C. School Report Cards: <https://ncreportcards.ondemand.sas.com/src>



We are committed to improving student performance. 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. The intent of receiving these designations is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your child. Already, we have:

- ***Selected 4th and 5th grade Student Leaders, who will be serving our students daily.***
- ***Completed over 300 parent teacher conferences!***
- ***Collaborated with PTA to host Back to School dances***
- ***Implemented a 1-to-1 initiative with Ipads as an Apple school***

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Dr. Taylor** at taylorj@gcsnc.com or **336-697-6070**.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jonita Taylor