



**October 14, 2024**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

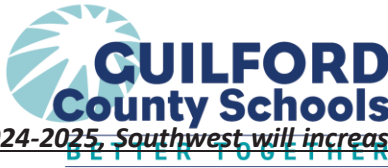
I hope the school year is off to a successful start for you and your child. I am writing this letter to let you know that **Southwest Middle School** has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. Per 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 **Southwest Middle School's** intentions to improve educational outcomes for underperforming student subgroups and close achievement gaps for all students.

As a TSI-AT (ATSI) school, **Southwest Middle 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 **Southwest Middle School's** improvement efforts. The ATSI plan will address the following areas:

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

We have set the following goals for **Southwest Middle School** this year:

- **GOAL: 6th Reading - By the end of 2024-2025, Southwest will increase proficiency of 6th grade students to 58%.**
- **GOAL: 7th Reading- By the end of 2024-2025, Southwest will increase 7th grade reading proficiency from 55% to 58%.**
- **GOAL: 8th Reading - By the end of 2024-2025, Southwest will increase 8th grade reading proficiency from 48.9% to 51.9%.**
- **GOAL: Math 1 EOC - By the end of 2024-2025, Southwest will increase Math 1 EOC Proficiency from 68.3 to 71.3.**
- **GOAL: By the end of 2024-2025, Southwest Guilford Middle School will decrease chronic student absences by 5 percentage points, from 24.6% in 2023-2024 to 19.6% or lower in 2024-2025.**



- **GOAL: 6th Math- By the end of 2024-2025, Southwest will increase math proficiency of 6th grade students to 58.6%.**
- **GOAL: 7th Math- By the end of 2024-2025, Southwest will increase 7th grade math proficiency from 55.8% to 58.6%.**

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

- Ensuring that students know and understand the learning objectives/outcomes for daily lessons
- Increasing student discourse and productive struggle
- Small-group instruction
- Targeted instruction based on individual student data points

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 **your child's co-principal at 336-819-2985** 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 and social media sites
- Volunteer.
- Join the Southwest Middle School Parent-Teacher-Student Association

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

- Graduation requirements: [www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: [www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/)
- State student achievement test results: [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/](http://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:

- **Had less than a 9% teacher turnover rate from the 2023-2024 to the 2024-2025 school year**
- **Lowered the number of Out of School Suspensions by more than 10% from the 2023-2024 school year**
- **Stabilized and improved our 23-24 6<sup>th</sup> grade reading, math, and 7<sup>th</sup> grade reading and math EOG scores**
- **Created a safer learning environment**



If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Dr. Robert Richmond at [richmor2@gcsnc.com](mailto:richmor2@gcsnc.com) or **336-819-2985**.

Sincerely,

*R. Robert Richmond IV, Ed. D*  
**Principal**  
**Southwest Middle School**