



1489 US Highway 701 South
PO Box 37
Elizabethtown, NC 28337

Phone: (910) 862-4136
Fax: (855) 860-6170

Jason B. Atkinson, Ed.D.
Superintendent

Board of Education
Mackie Singletary Chair
Tim Benton, Vice Chair
Chris Clark
Harfel Davis
Dennis Edwards
Steve Kwiatkowski
Gary Rhoda
Aaron Russ
Anthony Thomas

September 16, 2025

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 the school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At East Arcadia Primary, the achievement score for the 2024-2025 school year is based on how well the students performed on the End-of-Grade Reading, Math, and Science Assessments.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that East Arcadia Primary 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."

East Arcadia Primary received a School Performance Grade of "F" and a growth designation of "met expected growth" for the 2024–2025 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 the school provides.

A low performing school is 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 central office administrators and I will work with, and monitor the progress of East Arcadia Primary. The school is already engaged in the work of refining its plan to present to the Board of Education at the October meeting, scheduled for 6 p.m. on Monday, October 13, 2025. The final plan will be available for review on the school's website.

One of our top priorities for 2025–2026 is to improve our School Performance Grade.

East Arcadia Primary has defined several priorities for the 2025–2026 school year to help improve their School Performance Grade. Below are several key initiatives, programs, and strategies that the school will implement or continue to strengthen.

- District assigned curriculum specialist - will help teachers convert the knowledge from training to practice for an increase in reading and math growth
- Approved retired teacher volunteers to help tutor students during the school day to address learning gaps with interventions based on the needs of the student
- Teacher/Instructional Assistant small group focus and one to one instruction based on student needs
- Staff professional development on researched-based interventions and high probability instructional strategies
- Consistent communication with parents/guardians through the new Bladen County Schools APP, weekly all call messages, the school's website and social media sites, and weekly class reports
- Enrichment activities to help promote critical thinking skills
- Implementation of "The Leader in Me" program to help instill essential life skills and a leadership mindset by fostering self-confidence and goal-setting abilities to prepare students to thrive by developing their character, improving communication, promoting responsibility, and creating a culture of trust and belonging within the school community.

We encourage you to actively engage in your student's academic journey and invite you to collaborate with their teacher(s) to help ensure they stay on track for success. Working together as a team, we can improve not only how well our students are performing individually, but how the school is performing as a whole. There is nothing more important to us than ensuring students are ready for the next step in their academic careers. We appreciate your partnership and support to make it a successful school year.

If you have any questions regarding the School Performance Grade or the school's plans for improvement, please do not hesitate to contact David Wimert, principal at East Arcadia Primary, by calling (910) 247-4609, or by email, dawimert@bladen.k12.nc.us.

Sincerely,



Jason B. Atkinson, Ed.D.
Superintendent