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Jason B. Atkinson, Ed.D.  
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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 Bladen High School, the achievement score for the 2024-2025 school year is based on how well the students performed on the End of Course Assessments in Math 1, Math 3, Biology, and English 2.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that East Bladen High 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."

East Bladen High School received a School Performance Grade of "D" and a growth designation of "did not meet" 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 Bladen High School. 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 Bladen High School 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.

- Creation of additional Life Science courses for identified sophomores to assist with the transition into Biology courses to help their foundational skills.

- Creation of S.O.A.R. (Seek Opportunities, Achieve Results) Interventions which will take place every Thursday during Homeroom. This will be opportunities for students in English 2, Math 1, Math 3, and Biology to receive additional support. Students will be in small groups and work on specific targeted areas of instruction based on data collected. These peer study groups will encourage collaboration, accountability, and shared growth.
- Prioritizing instruction by minimizing interruptions, allowing teachers to teach bell to bell.
- Implementing Positive Based Intervention Strategies (PBIS) to recognize students who are achieving success in the classroom.
- Establishing Teacher Learning Communities. Grade level teachers will collaborate to strengthen connections and deepen understanding of content.
- Promoting inclusion based resources for identified students within the classroom instead of students being pulled out of classrooms and missing quality instruction.
- Establishing student and parent advisory teams to facilitate discussion on best instructional practices.
- Peer Group Connection—evidence-based program that supports and eases students' transition from middle to high school. It fosters a mentoring relationship that creates a nurturing environment for 9th graders. .

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 Chris Carroll, principal at East Bladen High School, by calling (910) 247-4610 or by email, [cscarroll@bladen.k12.nc.us](mailto:cscarroll@bladen.k12.nc.us).

Sincerely,



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Superintendent