



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
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September 16, 2025

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As a parent/guardian of a student at Tar Heel School, I am writing to inform you that Tar Heel School has been designated as a Targeted Support and Improvement Consistently Underperforming (TSI-CU) by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), North Carolina had to identify schools for targeted support and improvement. TSI-CU schools in North Carolina are those that have a subgroup that is under-performing. The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

As a TSI-CU school, Tar Heel School is required to develop a comprehensive plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement. The plan will also include how our district will support us and monitor the progress of our school. The comprehensive 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

Specific goals and strategies have been developed by the school and are a part of the School Improvement Plan. To review the school improvement plan, please visit the link, <http://www.indistar.org> and enter the following information:

ID: GuestS15615
Password: GuestS15615

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, but it will require hard work on the part of staff, students and families. Below are some strategies that Tar Heel School will be implementing:

- Tutoring/Intervention: Prioritize identified students for extended learning opportunities, including small-group tutoring.

- Family Engagement: Strengthen school-home connections through workshops, family nights, and regular communication celebrating progress. Provide translated materials and interpreters at key school events to foster inclusion.
- Data Reviews: Conduct quarterly subgroup data reviews in PLCs. Share subgroup progress with the School Improvement Team/MTSS team
- Language Development Integration: Embed vocabulary and language objectives into all content areas
- Progress Monitoring: Track language acquisition growth alongside academic performance using ACCESS data and classroom assessments.

Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. A few ways we can work together:

- Make sure that both you and your student are aware of academic expectations
- Make sure that your student is prepared and attends school each day
- Monitor your student's homework
- Monitor the progress your student is making and communicate regularly with your student's teacher(s)
- Keep track of the school website and school social media sites

Collaboratively, we can work together to ensure that our students are successful in meeting their academic goals. We are excited about this school year and are working to make it successful for your student. Here are some resources available to help you learn more about academic standards and achievement results:

- K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/
- State student achievement test results: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/
- NC School Report Cards: <https://ncreports.ondemand.sas.com/src/>

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Vanessa Ruffin, principal of Tar Heel School at (910) 862-2475 or by email at vlruffin@bladen.k12.nc.us.

Sincerely,



Jason B. Atkinson, Ed.D.
Superintendent