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Jason B. Atkinson, Ed.D.  
*Superintendent*

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September 16, 2024

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As a parent/guardian of a student at Elizabethtown Middle School, I am writing to inform you that Elizabethtown Middle has been designated as a Comprehensive Support and Improvement Low Performing (CSI-LP) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), North Carolina had to identify schools for comprehensive support and school improvement support. CSI-LP schools in North Carolina are those whose school performance grade is in the bottom five percent of all Title One served schools in North Carolina. 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 CSI-LP school, Elizabethtown Middle 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: GuestS15319

Password: GuestS15319

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 Elizabethtown Middle School will be implementing:

- ETMS will align resources and allocated funds to the Master Teacher program, which provides weekly targeted professional development.
- ETMS will allot funding towards in-school tutoring programs to address learning gaps.
- ETMS will have comprehensive PLC's that will be a forum to deliver PD and disaggregate data needed for targeted student interventions.

- ETMS will provide time for vertical PLC's to take place in order to develop standards-aligned units of instruction for each subject and grade level.
- ETMS will develop a new mission and vision statement that will be taught to all students and be our guiding principle for how we do business.
- ETMS will participate in a multicultural week dedicated to celebrating the diverse populations that exist within our school community.
- ETMS will name student ambassadors that will act as grade level representatives responsible for partnering with new students and helping host school/community events.
- ETMS will name student advisory board members who will act as liaisons between administration and the student body.
- ETMS will host 2 curriculum nights where student work will be showcased and parents will be able to see the instruction that is taking place within the classrooms.
- ETMS will use Thrillshare which will keep all stakeholders informed of the events and actions of the school through multiple streams of communication.
- ETMS will be a "Leader in Me" school that will nurture the ability of every student and staff member to be a leader in the school community.
- ETMS will host quarterly awards ceremonies to celebrate the academic, attendance, and stewardship achievements of our students.

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 set for your student this school year.
- 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 attend meetings with your student's teacher(s).
- Keep track of the school website and school social media sites.
- Always reach out to us if you have any questions or concerns.

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/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/)
- State student achievement test results: [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/)

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Bobby Godwin, principal of Elizabethtown Middle School at 910-317-5987 or by email at [bdgodwin@bladen.k12.nc.us](mailto:bdgodwin@bladen.k12.nc.us).

Sincerely,



Jason B. Atkinson, Ed.D.  
Superintendent