



Phone: 301-872-0200 ext. 12103

St. Mary's County Public Schools
Ridge Elementary School
49430 Airedele Road
Ridge, Maryland 20680

Chris Dyson
Principal

Dear Ridge Families,

Each year, the Maryland State Department of Education evaluates school performance using a variety of measures, including academic achievement, student progress, school quality, and overall student success. These results are based on standardized test scores and other factors such as student attendance, survey responses from students and staff, and the availability of a well-rounded curriculum. This data is part of the state's accountability framework, designed to help parents make informed decisions about their child's education.

We are writing to inform you that Ridge Elementary has been identified as a **Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI)** school. This designation indicates that one or more student groups are performing at a lower level than expected. These groups may include students with disabilities, economically disadvantaged students, or multilingual learners. It is also important to note that a single student may impact multiple subgroups, which has the potential to heavily impact our school's data.

TSI schools are identified each year under the federal **Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)**. It is important to note that each state sets its own threshold for what constitutes a student group. In Maryland, a group is defined by as few as 10 students — a significantly lower threshold than in the majority of other states.

Ridge Elementary received designation as a TSI school due to the performance of students with disabilities, students of two or more races, and students of economically disadvantaged status.

As a school community, we have identified the strategies below to strengthen our students' success. These strategies, and the data upon which they were determined, are outlined in our School Improvement Plan. Our full plan can be found on our school website.

- **Integration of school-based Literacy Coach** to support and enhance instructional practices, and to ensure equitable student access to rigorous English Language Arts instruction for all students.
- **Implement targeted, data-driven small group instruction** using research-based interventions and consistent progress monitoring to support student growth.
- **Fostering family and community partnerships** to promote student engagement, improve attendance, and increase academic achievement.

We need your support to achieve our mission of providing excellent and equitable learning opportunities to all children. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

Thank you for your continued support of Ridge Elementary School.

Sincerely,

Chris Dyson

Ridge Elementary Principal