



Upchurch Elementary School

730 Turnpike Rd. Raeford, NC 28376

Phone: 910.875.1574

Fax: 910.904.0624



Angel Baker
Principal

Lashonda Moore
Assistant Principal

October 6, 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in Upchurch Elementary School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Upchurch has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school 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-AT 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-AT school, Upchurch 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

We have set the following goals for Upchurch Elementary this year:

Priority 1 STUDENT SUCCESS: Ensure that every student is challenged and engaged while providing multiple pathways for student success by broadening opportunities, building support systems, and eliminating barriers.

- Goal #1: By the end of the 2025-2006 school year, UES will increase the number of students scoring proficient on each Reading, Math, and Science End of Grade test by 10%, as measured by North Carolina's Ready End of Grade assessment.
 - Reading: Increase from 48.1% to 58.1%
 - Math: Increase from 53.7% to 63.7%
 - Science: Increase from 64.1% to 74.1%



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- Goal #2: By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, UES will increase the number of students with disabilities scoring proficient on each Reading, and Math End of Grade test by 10%, as measured by North Carolina's Ready End of Grade assessment.
 - Reading: Increase from 10.9% to 20.9% (13 students)
 - Math: Increase from 24.4% to 34.4% (16 students)

Priority 2: Create an environment that fosters the growth of the whole child by nurturing students' intellectual, physical, mental, and social-emotional growth in healthy, safe, and supportive learning environments throughout the 2024-2025 school year.

- Goal #1: By the end of the 2025-2026 school year, UES will increase the percentage of students with a growth mindset by 10%, as measured by the Panorama assessment.
- Goal #2: By the end of the 2025-2026 school year, UES will increase the percentage of how well students regulate their emotions, by 10%, as measured by the Panorama assessment.

Priority 3: Modern and Innovative Learning Environments and Systems - Create an environment where technology is used to enhance teaching and learning and financial and business systems to provide tailored support to students, parents, and educators.

- Goal # 1: By the end of the 2025-2026 school year, 100% of staff and students will demonstrate understanding and application of research-based, personalized, interactive digital resources such as Canvas, Seesaw, I-Ready, Wonders, Reading Horizons, and mClass, as measured by a rating of proficient or above on NCEES Evaluation STANDARD 4, ELEMENT D: Teachers integrate and utilize technology in their instruction.
- Goal # 2: By the end of the 2025-2026 school year, UES will improve comprehensive connections within the Upchurch and Hoke County communities to provide educational support for parents on Class Dojo, Reading Horizons, iReady, and other technological equipment that are tailored to increase the skills of all students to be 21st-century, globally-competitive, as measured by parent attendance during SIT meetings.

Priority 4: Recruit, hire, and invest in high-quality and diverse teachers, leaders, and support staff. (considerations: recruitment and retention, equitable access to human capital, professional learning opportunities)

- Goal #1: By the end of the 2025-2026 school year, UES will increase the percentage of teachers who exceed student academic growth by 10%, as measured by the Education Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS).



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- Goal#2: By the end of the 2025-2026 school year, UES will increase the number of teachers who feel comfortable raising issues to the administration that are important to them by 10%, through the use of the Relay Graduate School of Education Leadership Program framework for providing strategic support for all teachers, as measured by NCTWCS Retention Question 3.

Priority 5: Develop strong connections among schools, families, and the community to broaden opportunities for student learning, development, and growth. (considerations: community engagement activities to build staff and family capabilities, networks, understanding, confidence; volunteer, outreach, modes of communication; marketing; partnerships with military, university, community).

- Goal 1: By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, UES will increase parent satisfaction of school events by 10%, as measured by question 4 on the Title 1 Parent Survey, by providing a variety of events for all students.
- Goal 2: By the end of the 2024-2025 school year, UES will increase communication with parents and community members by 10%, as measured by as measured by question 4 on the Title 1 Parent Survey.

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

- Differentiated professional development plan for faculty and staff.
- MTSS process will be used when analyzing student data
- Development of rigorous, standard based, lesson plans that follow the district Literacy and Math Framework
- Weekly data meetings with each grade level to plan for each subgroup
- Weekly planning meetings with each grade to ensure rigorous, standard based instruction
- Lesson plan feedback for all lesson plans.
- PLC Framework - Feedback during PLCs.

Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some 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. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your student's teacher(s).
- Call your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns about your student or to set up an



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appointment to meet with a school staff member who will be working with your student.

- 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 our website and social media sites:
<https://www.facebook.com/UpchurchElementary>
- Volunteer.
- Join the PTO

Sounds like a lot but preparing our students so that they can succeed is not easy and is a group effort. Here are some resources available to help:

- Graduation requirements: www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/
- State student achievement test results: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/
- N.C. School Report Cards: <https://ncreportcards.ondemand.sas.com/src>

We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your student. Already, we have:

- Developed a plan as a staff to target instruction to ensure that we are meeting the needs of all students.
- Weekly lesson script annotations
- Tutors to help address the needs of students experiencing difficulty
- Parent and Family nights to give parents the information needed to support learning.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Angel Baker at abaker@hcs.k12.nc.us or 910-875-1574.

Sincerely,

Angel Baker
Principal
Upchurch Elementary School