



November 12, 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year is off to a successful start for you and your child. I am writing this letter to let you know that **Governors' Village STEM Academy - Upper Campus** has been designated as an Additional Targeted Support & Improvement (ATSI) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. Per ESSA Section 1111(d)(2)(C), schools are identified as ATSI schools in North Carolina because one or more of the following subgroups received a subgroup performance grade score at or below the highest identified CSI-LP school's All Students group during the identification year; and is on the TSI-CU list for the subgroup(s) for the previous year. Subgroup performance scores are provided for the following subgroups: (1) Students with Disabilities, (2) Economically Disadvantaged, (3) Black, (4) White, (5) Hispanic, (6) Asian-Pacific Islander, (7) Multi-racial, and (8) English Learners. This letter is to notify our parents and guardians of **Governors' Village STEM Academy - Upper Campus** intentions to improve educational outcomes for underperforming student subgroups and close achievement gaps for all students.

As an ATSI school, **Governors' Village STEM Academy - Upper Campus** is required to develop an Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve outcomes for underperforming subgroups. The plan will also include strategies that our district or charter will employ to support **Governors' Village STEM Academy - Upper Campus** improvement efforts. The ATSI plan will address the following areas (*select applicable areas and remove the remaining areas*):

- Strengthening Learning Lab instruction to both focus on IEP goals while simultaneously supporting access to grade-level content
- Strengthening co-teaching practices with Exceptional Children (EC), ELA, and Math Teachers
- Data-Driven Decision Making aided by quarterly "data dives" focused on assessing the progress scholars with IEPs are making toward math and reading goals.

We have set the following goals for **Governors' Village STEM Academy - Upper Campus** this year:

- *We will strengthen specialized reading and math instruction for scholars with IEPs and increase access to the general education curriculum through co-teaching support. Our goal is for the Exceptional Children's cohort to achieve a growth index of at least 2.0 (Exceeds Growth)—meaning all scholars with IEPs surpass EVAAS growth projections—and to triple the cohort's proficiency rate compared to SY24-25.*

Here are some strategies that we will be implementing to improve student outcomes:

- ***Embedding a systematic reading program, AMIRA, into our 5th - 8th Grade Learning Labs. AMIRA has been proven to strengthen student reading fluency and comprehension skills.***
- ***EC and content PLCs to include a focus on EC teachers sharing best practices with co-teaching and with the facilitation of instruction in their Learning Labs.***
- ***Quarterly data dives in collaboration with our instructional content leads and district EC instructional data specialists to monitor and inform ongoing ELA and math planning***
- ***Professional Development Series focused on Co-Teaching Best Practices***
- ***Providing scholars with IEPs increased access to the ELA and math general education curriculum with co-teaching support***
- ***Strengthening Learning Lab instruction to both focus on IEP goals while simultaneously supporting access to grade-level content***
- ***Working collaboratively with general education teachers to strengthen their capacity to make the content accessible to all students***

Also, parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways we can work together:

- Ensure that both you and your child know the academic expectations set for your child this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your student's teacher(s).
- Call ***or email your child's teacher*** if you have questions or concerns about your student or to set up an appointment to meet with a school staff member who will be working with your child.
- Make sure that your child is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your child's homework.
- Monitor the progress your child is making and attend meetings with your child's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website and social media sites [<https://gvsaupperk8.cmsk12.org/>].
- Volunteer.
- Join our PTA

Additionally, listed below are a few resources available to help: (***Insert school and/or community resources with contact information and/or use the list below***)

- 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 are committed to improving student performance. It is important to remember that just as no single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about a school's performance or the opportunities that our school provides. The intent of receiving these designations is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your child. Already, we have:

- **Began implementation of all the strategies noted above**

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Jeffrey Cook** at jeffreys.cook@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-5775.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Cook