



Williston Middle School

Principal: Jo McDonnell

Assistant Principals: Ivy Murrain, Jeff Swanson, Amy Oots

401 S. 10th Street
Wilmington, NC 28401
(910) 815-6906

Dear Parent / Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent / guardian of a student in Williston Middle School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Williston Middle School has been designated as a Comprehensive Support & Improvement Low-Performing (CSI-LP) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(c)(4)(D)(i)(I), North Carolina had to identify schools for comprehensive support and improvement. CSI-LP schools in North Carolina are those found in the lowest-performing 5 percent of all schools receiving Title I funding. 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, Williston 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
- Standard-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 Williston Middle School this year:

- Positive Growth Factor for every student and every student subgroup
- Increase school wide proficiency
- Reduction of student discipline rates
- Increased percentage of ML students exiting ACCESS testing

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 Williston Middle School will be implementing:

- Weekly interventions in reading and math for students during morning mastery time
- IXL learning software school wide
- Individual Student Growth Monitoring in reading & math
- Revised Disciplinary Procedures and goals for parent contact

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 Williston Middle School at 910-815-6906 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 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 [Williston Middle School website](#) and [social media site](#).
- Volunteer.
- Join the [Williston PTA](#).

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:

- School extracurricular activities
- Student clubs
- Funded Instructional Coaches
- Newly formed PTA
- Scheduled staff professional development

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact JoEllen McDonnell at jo.mcdonnell@nhcs.net or 910-815-6906.

Sincerely,

JoEllen McDonnell, Principal