

October 28, 2025

Dear Parent / Guardian

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent / guardian of a student in **Metro School**, I am writing this letter to let you know that **Metro 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, **Metro 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 **Metro School** this year:

- The percent of Kindergarten through 2nd grade students scoring at or above benchmark in early literacy as measured by ULS Benchmarks will show a completion rate of 100% in SY2025-26. (Aligns to A2.04 and B3.03 and CMS Goal 1)
- The percent of students scoring College and Career Ready (CCR) on reading End of Grade assessments (NC Extend 1) in grades 3-8 will increase from 0 % in SY2024-25 to 3 % in SY2025-26. (Aligns to A2.04 and B3.03 and CMS Goal 2)
- The percent of students scoring College and Career Ready (CCR) on Math 1 assessments (NC Extend 1) will increase from 5 % in SY2024-25 to 10 % in SY2025-26. (Aligns to A2.04 and B3.03 and CMS Goal 3)
- The percent of rising 12th grade students on track to graduate from high school enrolled, enlisted or employed will remain at 100% for SY 2025-26. (Aligns to A4.10 and A4.16 and CMS Goal 4)
- The percent of students scoring Grade Level Proficient (GLP), on English II assessments (NC Extend 1) will increase from 15% in SY2024-25 to 25 % in SY2025-26. (Aligns to A4.01,

B3.03, D1.02 and CMS Guardrail 1)

- 100% of teachers will implement Capturing Kids Hearts strategies with fidelity during the 2025-2026 school year. (Aligns to A1.07, A4.06 and CMS Guardrail 2 and 3)
- The school will retain 85% of its highly effective classroom teachers throughout the 2025-26. (Aligns to C3.04 and CMS Guardrail 4)
- The number of OSS/ISS incidents will decrease from 1% in SY 2024-25 to 0% in SY 2025-26. (Aligns to A1.07, A4.06 and CMS Guardrail 2)
- The percent of Chronic Absenteeism (unexcused absences) will decrease from 7% in SY 2024-25 to 5% in SY 2025-26. (Aligns to A1.07, A4.06 and CMS Guardrail 3)

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 *Metro School* will be implementing:

### **1. Positive School Culture & Classroom Environment**

- All staff will be trained in Capturing Kids' Hearts and will implement the practices with fidelity to strengthen positive relationships, promote emotional safety, and reinforce consistent expectations schoolwide.
- The Admin Team, Instructional Leadership Team (ILT), and Student Services Team will establish a school-wide Behavior Expectation Matrix to support effective classroom management and ensure consistent reinforcement of school routines and expectations.

### **2. Instructional Programs & Learning Resources**

- Budget Allocation:
  - \$10,000 (Title I) will be used to support Instructional Field Trips that extend learning opportunities aligned to the NC Extend I content standards.
  - \$73,016.40 (Title I) will be used to purchase instructional supplies and materials that support engagement and meaningful learning experiences for all students.
- The Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) will develop and model evidence-based instructional practices that are aligned to the needs of learners with significant support needs across all grade levels.
- Collaborative Teams (CTs) will identify students who require additional support and will implement reteaching, regrouping, and progress monitoring cycles to support growth toward IEP goals.

### **3. Multi-Tiered Student Support (MTSS)**

- The Student Services Team will revise and implement a structured teaming model with clear roles, responsibilities, and consistent meeting schedules to review student-specific data and develop tiered intervention plans.
- The Attendance Team will implement a three-tiered Attendance Plan to decrease chronic absenteeism by 30% from SY 2024–25 to SY 2025–26.

### **4. Family & Community Engagement**

- Budget Allocation:
  - \$5,720.00 (Title I Family Engagement) will be used to support parent involvement workshops, transition events, and family resource activities.

- Metro School will increase communication with families through:
  - Weekly instructional posts on ParentSquare that include home strategies and learning extensions.
  - Metro Parent Roundtable and Lunch and Learns, which will offer workshops focusing on navigating services, supporting communication at home, transition planning, and post-secondary opportunities.

#### **5. Transition Planning & Student Intake**

- The Admin and Student Services Teams will conduct intake meetings with families of new students to review communication needs, medical/personal care needs, and IEP goals prior to classroom placement.
- A Transition Google Form will be developed for teachers to share key information that supports students in moving successfully to the next grade or program.

#### **6. Staff Training, Coaching, & Recruitment**

- The Principal will create a walkthrough schedule aligned to curriculum implementation, SEL practices, tiered interventions, and classroom management routines.
- Ongoing professional development will be provided for teachers, ILT members, and collaborative teams to strengthen instructional effectiveness and data-based decision-making.
- CSI/Title I Funds will be used to support staffing and recruitment, including:
- Professional Development Budget:
  - \$8,000 (PRC 105) will support instructional coaching and staff training.
  - AbleSpace: \$5,731.20 for instructional monitoring and implementation support.
- All staff will be trained in Capturing Kids Hearts and will implement Capturing Kids Hearts with fidelity.

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).
- Stay connected with your child's teacher and instructional updates.
- Participate in school events, workshops, and transition support opportunities.
- Attend IEP meetings and parent conferences.
- Monitor the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student's teacher(s).
- Call ***Fermandi Dyson, at 980-343-5450*** 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.
- Keep track of our website and social media sites <https://metroec.cmsk12.org/> and <https://www.facebook.com/CMSMetroSchool/>
- Volunteer and join the ***Metro School Parent Teacher Organization***

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/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- 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/)
- 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 students. Already, we have:

- Created the Metro School Cafe'
- Revitalized our Greenhouse and Outdoor Learning Space
- Enhanced our Sensory Lab
- Aquaponics Program 25/26 School Year

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Fermandi Dyson** at **fermandis.dyson@cms.k12.nc.us** or **980-343-5450**.

Sincerely,

*Fermandi Dyson*

**Fermandi Dyson**  
**Principal, Metro School**