

November 19, 2025

Dear Parent / Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent / guardian of a student in Garinger High School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Garinger, has been designated as a Comprehensive Support & Improvement Low-Graduation Rate (CSI-LG) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(c)(4)(D)(i)(II), North Carolina had to identify schools for comprehensive support and improvement. CSI-LG schools in North Carolina are high schools that have a 4-year cohort graduation rate of less than 66.7%. 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-LG school, Garinger 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 Garinger High School this year:

- Increase our graduation rate to 65% by the end of the 2025-2026 school year.
- Increase Math I proficiency to 20% by the end of the 2025-2026 school year.
- Increase our overall School Performance Grade by 15 points by the end of the 2025-2026 school year.

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 Garinger will be implementing:

- Teachers will participate in professional development geared toward student engagement.
- Our school counselors will monitor our graduation cohort to help ensure students are on track for graduation.

- Our counselors will also meet with students individually and in groups throughout the school year to discuss graduation requirements and make plans for success as needed.
- GHS Administration along with our Instructional Leadership Team will monitor instruction and use data to determine next steps for professional development.
- We will monitor student attendance, academic and social/emotional needs to ensure we serve the whole child.

Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways you can help:

- 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 student's school counselor at 980-343-6450 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 website and social media sites.
- Volunteer.
- We also encourage parents to connect to Parent Square to receive messages from the school and know what's happening for your student.

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:

- You can always contact our school at 980-343-6450 if you have questions or need assistance at any time.
- 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:

- Started professional development for teachers.
- We are creating a student centered campus and have already added activities for students on the quad during lunches.
- Our Math I teachers are receiving specific coaching and professional development to assist our students with learning the content.
- We are looking at the possibility of beginning a Parent Teacher Organization to help families stay connected.
- We have also completed some beautification projects on campus.

Dr. Shannon Clemons
Principal

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If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Shannon Clemons at shannond.clemons@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-6450.

Sincerely,

Shannon Clemons

Dr. Shannon Clemons, Principal