

Ranson IB Middle School

5850 Statesville Road
Charlotte, NC 28269
Phone 980-343-6800

November 17, 2025

Dear Parent / Guardian:

I hope the first quarter of the school year has proven to be positive and overall, a rewarding experience for you and your student. As a parent / guardian of a student at Ranson IB Middle School, I am writing this letter to let you know that **Ranson** 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.

While this designation reflects areas where we must improve, it also provides an important opportunity to access additional support, resources, and guidance aimed at improving outcomes for all students, closing achievement gaps, increasing equity, and strengthening the quality of instruction.

As a CSI-LP school, **Ranson 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 goal for **Ranson IB Middle School** this year:

- *By June 2026, Ranson IB Middle School will increase overall student proficiency on state End-of-Grade (EOG) assessments from 23% (2023–2024 baseline) to at least 47%, resulting in an improvement from an “F” school designation to a “C” designation, as measured by the North Carolina School Performance Framework.*

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 we are implementing:

- **Strengthening daily instruction** by ensuring all lessons are aligned to the NC Standards with clear learning targets, modeling, checks for understanding, and opportunities for academic discussions.
- **Implementing small-group instruction and targeted interventions** based on assessment data (iReady, MasteryConnect, classroom assessments) to support students who need additional help and extend learning for those who are ready to go deeper.
- **Using data consistently** through weekly Professional Learning Communities where teachers discuss progress of students and adjust instruction to support individual needs.

- **Increasing engaged learning time** by minimizing disruptions, maximizing bell-to-bell instruction, and maintaining strong classroom routines and expectations.
- **Providing professional development and coaching for teachers** focused on effective instructional practices, differentiation, literacy strategies, and student engagement.
- **Strengthening attendance and on-time arrival** through family outreach, incentives, and partnerships that help keep students present and ready to learn all day, every day.
- **Enhancing school culture and behavior support** through Capturing Kids' Hearts (CKH), our House System, and restorative practices that create safe, respectful, and inclusive learning environments.
- **Expanding communication with families** through conferences, progress updates, workshops, and online tools like ParentSquare so families can stay informed and support learning at home.
- **Providing enrichment opportunities** such as clubs, tutoring, mentoring, and experiences that support academic growth and student engagement.

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 **the school 980-343-6800** 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.
- Remind your student to take care of the Chromebook entrusted to complete the learning task by following Device Care expectations.
- Monitor your students' work and encourage them to read.
- Monitor the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student's teacher(s).
- Volunteer.
- Join the **Ranson Collaborative Parent Teacher Team**

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 are excited about our recent hiring of three (3) new teachers, and we look forward to daily improvements in our learning spaces and building off the school pride students are experiencing after the Football Team winning the Middle School Championship.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Principal Pickard - tracey.pickard@cms.k12.nc.us or ransonmiddle@cms.k12.nc.us

Sincerely,

Tracey M. Pickard, [M.Ed](https://www.ncpublicschools.org/education/grades-12/education-requirements/education-requirements-grades-12/);MSA

Principal