



New Hanover County Public Schools  
Snipes Academy of Arts & Design  
2150 Chestnut Street  
Wilmington, NC 28405  
910-251-6175(O)/910-815-6974(F)

Dr. Stephanie Willis, Principal  
Melanie Rhyne, Assistant Principal

11/18/2025

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 Snipes Academy of Arts & Design has been designated as a 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 Snipes Academy of Arts & Design's intentions to improve educational outcomes for underperforming student subgroups and close achievement gaps for all students.

As an ATSI school, Snipes Academy of Arts & Design 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 Snipes Academy of Arts & Design's improvement efforts. The ATSI plan will address the following areas:

- Standards-aligned Instruction
- Recruitment & Retention of Effective Teachers
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Support Services
- Family and Community Engagement

This is a planning year. This is the time for the current goals and strategies to be reevaluated and guide our work over the next three years of this designation cohort.

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 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 school [website](#) and [social media](#) sites.
- Volunteer.

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*"We do what is RIGHT, not what is EASY"*



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Additionally, listed below are a few 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 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.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Dr. Stephanie Willis [stephanie.willis@nhcs.net](mailto:stephanie.willis@nhcs.net) or 910-251-6175.

Sincerely,

Dr. Stephanie Willis

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