

November 17, 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 McAlpine Elementary School has been designated as an 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 McAlpine Elementary School's intentions to improve educational outcomes for underperforming student subgroups and close achievement gaps for all students. As an ATSI school in the category of SWD, McAlpine Elementary School 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 McAlpine Elementary School's improvement efforts. The ATSI plan will address the following areas:

- Classroom Management
- Standards-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 McAlpine Elementary this year:

- We will increase our student with disabilities subgroup performance grade from a F to a D or higher in 2025-26. (Aligned to A4.01, D1.02, and CMS Guardrail 1)

Here are some strategies that we will be implementing to improve student outcomes:

- Utilizing an inclusion model for students with disabilities to have equal access to grade level curriculum and standards aligned instruction
- Making master scheduling adjustments to support push-in and pull-out service models
- Using pre-assessments to assess prior knowledge and drive instruction
- Scaffolding of grade-level content for student access and provide various forms of exemplars for student support (visual, auditory)
- Use of collaborative grouping and scaffolding to increase student discourse while providing access and success in grade level content.

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 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).
- Email Kristen McGuirk at [kristenm.mcguirk@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:kristenm.mcguirk@cms.k12.nc.us) if you have questions or concerns about your child 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 student's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website <https://mcalpinees.cmsk12.org/>
- Volunteer.
- Join the McAlpine PTO.

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. Already, we have:

- Continued our Multi-Tiered System of Support process to identify and intervene on any student with academic concerns.
- Strategically create small groups of students working with their teacher on specific targeted areas.
- Implemented Capturing Kids' Hearts.
- Celebrate our students through the SOAR-TA Award, SOAR Tickets, and positive behavior incentives.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Kristen McGuirk at [kristenm.mcguirk@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:kristenm.mcguirk@cms.k12.nc.us).

Sincerely,

Principal