

Telephone
980-343-5992

Website
<http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/phillipoberryHS/Pages/Default.aspx>

Address
1430 Allegheny Street
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Tanya Branham
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Brian Hitt
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Sharon Toguchi
Assistant Principal of Instruction
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Dean of Students

October 20, 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 Phillip O. Berry Academy of Technology 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 POB's intentions to improve educational outcomes for underperforming student subgroups and close achievement gaps for all students.

This opportunity intends to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

As an ATSI school, POB 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 our school's progress. The comprehensive plan will address the following areas:

- 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 goals for POB this year:

- The percentage of high school students who score at the College and Career (CCR) level -- a 4 or 5 -- on the Math 1 EOC (grades 9-12) will increase from 13.3 % in SY2024-25 to 18.1% in SY2025-26. (Aligns to A2.04 and B3.03 and CMS Goal 2)
- Percent of rising 12th grade students on track to graduate from high school enrolled, enlisted or employed will increase from 97.7% to 98% by June 2026 (Goal 4).
- We will increase our SWD subgroup from a F to a D or higher.
- We will meet or exceed expected Educator Value Added Assessment System (EVAAS) growth for our overall school index in SY2025-26. (95%)
- 100% of classroom teachers will implement Capturing Kids Hearts with fidelity (aligns to A1.07)

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 POB will be implementing:

- Use of various data points to identify students for small group instruction
- Providing after-school tutoring targeting SWD
- Common planning to ensure content alignment
- Utilizing Cardinal Block for additional interventions to target SWD
- Professional development focused on increasing student engagement and integrating core curriculum and CTE pathway curriculum across content areas

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 Sharon Toguchi at sharonn.toguchi@cms.k12.nc.us 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. www.cmsk12.org/phillipoberryHS. volunteer.

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're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your student(s).

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Principal Tanya Branham at t.branham@cms.k12.nc.us or Assistant Principal of Instruction Sharon Toughchi at sharonn.toguchi@cms.k12.nc.us or call the school at 980-343-5993

Sincerely,

Tanya Branham