



November 14, 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 River Gate 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 River Gate Elementary Schools intentions to improve educational outcomes for underperforming student subgroups and close achievement gaps for all students.

As an ATSI school, River Gate 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 River Gate 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
- Implementation of a Tiered Instructional System
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Support Services

We have set the following goals for River Gate Elementary School this year:

- Percent of K-2 students scoring at or above benchmark in early literacy as measured by DIBELS will increase from 74.8% in June 2025 to 80% by June 2026 and 91% by June 2029.
- The percent of students scoring CCR (college and career ready) on Reading End-of-Grade assessments in grades 3-5 will increase from 33.3% in June 2025 to 40% by June 2026 and 50% by June 2029.
- The percent of students that demonstrate grade level proficiency (GLP) and college and career readiness on the 5th Grade Science End of Grade Assessment will increase from 63.1% GLP and 35.2% CCR in 2024-25 to 75% GLP and 50% CCR in 2025-26.
- We will increase our SWD subgroup's performance grade from a F to a D or higher in 2025-26.

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

- The administrative team will meet with the EC teachers throughout the year to ensure that IEP goals align with grade level standards.
- EC teachers will use SPIRE and Number Worlds within the resource setting with fidelity.

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 Principal Erica Ellis 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 website <https://rivergatees.cmsk12.org/>
- Volunteer.
- Join the River Gate Parent Teacher Association.

Additionally, listed below are a few 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 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:

- Introduced after-school clubs
- Hosted Open House and Curriculum Night
- Introduced a new incentive program using Gator Tickets
- Launched Capturing Kids Hearts
- Provided teachers with extended planning and time for data analysis
- Implemented new expectations for small group instruction in K-5 in Reading and Math
- Launched a comprehensive coaching program to support teacher development

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Erica Ellis at erica.ellis@cms.k12.nc.us or (980) 344-1000.

Sincerely,

Erica Ellis