

November 20, 2025

Dear JMA Families

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 JM Alexander 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 **JM Alexander Middle School's** intentions to improve educational outcomes for underperforming student subgroups and close achievement gaps for all students.

As an ATSI school, **JM Alexander Middle 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 **JM Alexander Middle School's** improvement efforts. The ATSI plan will address the following areas:

- Standards-aligned Instruction
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Instructional Leadership
- Implementation of a Tiered Instructional System
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Support Services
- Family and Community Engagement

We have set the following goals for **JM Alexander IB Middle School** this year:

- *The percent of SWD students scoring Grade Level Proficient (GLP), on ELA End of Grade assessments in grades 6-8 will increase from 4.6% in SY2024-25 to 29% in SY2025-26.*
- *The percent of scholars scoring CCR (College and Career Ready) on Math 1 Assessments will increase from 38.7% in SY 2024-2025 to 100% in SY 2025-2026.*
- *The percentage of scholars scoring CCR (College and Career Ready) on Reading End of Grade Assessments in grades 6-8 will increase from 15.8% in 2024-2025 to 45% in 2025-2026.*
- *The percent of scholars scoring Grade Level Proficient (GLP), JMA's English Language Learners on Literacy EOG assessments in grades 6-8 will increase from 24% in SY 2024-2025 to 45% in SY 2025-2026.*
- *The number of OSS incidents will decrease for our Black/Hispanic scholars with at least 1 day of OSS being 164 in SY 2024-2025 to 80 in SY 2025-2026.*
- *The percent of Chronic Absenteeism (scholars with 10+ unexcused absences) will decrease from 35.2 % in SY 2024-2025 to 25% in SY 2025-2026*
- *The school will retain 95% of highly effective classroom teachers throughout the 2025-2026 SY.*
- *As an ATSI school for EDS we will improve our EDS SPG from a F to a D or higher.*

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

- Within the 2025-2026 school year, our ATSI school will look at scheduling Students with Disabilities to promote strategic targeted interventions for skill deficits during Resource and Core Instructional Classes and True Blue Time Teachers will use the EL Education Curriculum, iReady Reading/Math, SPIRE, Amira Reading, and Open Up Math with approved supplemental resources to meet the individual needs of students.
- Within the 2025-2026 school year, our ATSI school for EDS will implement the following evidence- based interventions such as small groups, standards based centers, and iReady to increase the performance of our EDS.
- The Student Services Team will evaluate the effectiveness of the SEL Lessons through the CKH implementation monitoring and CKH surveys data and chronic absenteeism initiatives. These actions will contribute to an overall improvement of student achievement, school culture, student attendance, and student behaviors.
- School Administration, ELA and Math Master Teacher, MCL, IB Coordinator & Department Chairs will develop and review a calibrated walkthrough document focusing on Core Action 3 and the Triple A Look Fors to guide monthly walkthroughs of all teachers to identify coaching needs and for ensuring standards aligned instruction.
- JM Alexander staff will implement daily Social Emotional Learning time using Capturing Kids' Hearts program (Morning Meetings, Journaling, Good Things, Signals (Time Out, Check, Foul)) as our Schoolwide Core Social-Emotional Practices to support the SEL needs of students.

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 Hager at 980-343-3833** 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 and social media sites [JMA Website](#) and [JMA Facebook](#)
- Volunteer.
- Join the ***JMA PTSA at jmaalexanderptsa@gmail.com***

Additionally, listed below are a few resources available to help: JM Alexander Middle School

- 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:

- **Football Ball team was a runner up in the Championship Game for Fall 2025**
- **Basketball Team won the Championship in 2025**
- **A BMT and Counselor assigned to each grade level**
- **True Blue Time (Academic and Enrichment Block)**

- **Capturing Kids Hearts**
- **Sources of Strength**
- **North Mecklenburg Women' s Association Partnership**
- **Robotics**
- **Chess Club**
- **Cross Country for Youth**
- **Right Moves for Youth**

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Principal Hager @ tracey.hager@cms.k12.nc.us

Sincerely,

Tracey Hager, JMA Principal