CHICOD SCHOOL
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Dr. Leslie Hayes
Principal

Mrs. Ashley Piner
Mr. Aaron Speas
Assistant Principals

Date: 10/21/2026

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 Chicod 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 Chicod School's intentions to improve educational outcomes for underperforming student subgroups and close achievement gaps for all students.

As a ATSI school, Chicod 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 Chicod 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 goals for Chicod School this year:

- **Improve School Outcomes:** By June 2027, Chicod School will advance its academic performance and growth to a School Performance Grade of 82.
- **Minimize Opportunity Gaps:** By June 2027, Chicod School will systematically close opportunity gaps by accelerating growth for historically underperforming student subgroups (AIG, ELL, Black, Hispanic, and EC), achieving and maintaining an EVAAS growth index of +2.0 or higher across all five groups toward our 5-year goal.
- **Increase Educator Efficacy:** By June 2027, 100% of teachers will execute a PDP growth goal mapped to an assigned High-Yield Strategy, advancing at least one level on their strategy continuum and achieving "In Progress" or higher on the Learning-Focused rubrics.

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

- Targeted Small-Group & Tiered Instruction: Implementing structured Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS) intervention blocks to provide tailored academic support for our AIG, ELL, Black, Hispanic, and Exceptional Children (EC) subgroups.
- High-Yield Instructional Strategies: Equipping 100% of our teachers with research-backed Learning-Focused framework practices to boost classroom engagement, critical thinking, and student mastery.
- Data-Driven PLTs (Professional Learning Teams): Utilizing weekly teacher collaboration time to analyze student growth metrics, track individual benchmark performance, and adjust instruction in real-time.
- Accelerated Subgroup Growth Tracking: Regularly monitoring EVAAS progress indicators and benchmark assessments to ensure all targeted student populations are on track to achieve expected growth targets (+2.0 or higher).
- Coaching & Instructional Leadership Support: Providing continuous administrative feedback, peer observations, and professional growth opportunities to ensure high instructional standards in every classroom.

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 Dr. Leslie Hayes 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 (Facebook, Class Dojo).
- Volunteer.
- Join the PTO.

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:

- Launched our schoolwide MTSS intervention and enrichment schedules for the year.
- Finalized professional development alignment for all certified staff around Learning-Focused High-Yield Strategies.
- Established designated grade-level PLT meeting times to conduct data reviews and those teams have begun meeting.

We also have the following opportunities available for our students:

- Athletic teams
- Community service projects
- Battle of the Books (Elem and Middle)
- Sports (Volleyball, Soccer, Cross Country, Football, Baseball, Softball, Basketball, Cheerleading)
- Science Olympiad
- Math Mania Teams (3-5)
- Chorus
- Orchestra
- Peer Mentors
- Band
- Pep Band
- Yearbook Club
- Model United Nations Debate Club
- BETA Club
- AVID
- SGA
- FBLA

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Dr. Leslie Hayes at HayesL@pitt.k12.nc.us or (252)756-6742.

Sincerely,

Dr. Leslie Hayes