Mrs. Olivia Lattimore, Principal
Mrs. Erin Giustizia, Assistant Principal

WALDO C. FALKENER, SR. ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

October 27, 2026

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 Falkener Elementary has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education.

As defined the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1111(c)(4)(D)(i)(III), schools are identified as TSI-AT 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 Falkener Elementary School's intentions to improve educational outcomes for underperforming student subgroups and close achievement gaps for all students.

As a TSI-AT (ATSI) school, Falkener 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 **Falkener's** improvement efforts. The ATSI plan will address the following areas:

- Classroom management
- Standards-aligned instruction
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Instructional leadership
- Recruitment and 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 **Falkener Elementary** this year:

- TSI: By the end of the 26-27 school year, Falkener Elementary School will increase reading proficiency for the following subgroups:
  - ELS subgroup from 13.5% to a minimum of 16.5%.
  - SWD subgroup from 9.1% to a minimum of 12.1%.
  - Hispanic subgroup from 22.6% to a minimum of 25.6%.
- By June of 2027, Falkener Elementary School will provide quarterly career awareness opportunities in 100% if our K-5 classrooms through authentic learning experiences, community partnerships, and integrated curriculum connections.
- By the end of the 2026-2027 school year, Falkener Elementary will increase overall math proficiency from 31.3% to a minimum of 36.3%.

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

- Implementation of Advanced Teaching Roles to support instruction at all grade levels and all students will have access to great teachers through the placement of multi-classroom coaches, (MCCs).
- MCCs hold weekly planning sessions for grade levels. Each meeting focuses on grade level weaknesses and strengths. The team collaborates while creating lessons plans that target specific standards and leaning goals.
- Teachers will meet weekly with their grade levels to analyze formative assessment data with a focus on using data to inform small group implementation.
- Title I funds will be used to purchase library books to enhance independent reading for students. The school librarian will activate a new check out method that allows parents and students to have weekly checkouts on reading materials.
- EC Staff members will use SPIRE, Fastbridge and Number Worlds to provide supplemental grade level support for students.
- Grade-levels utilize vertical planning from previous grades and following grades to align their lessons to grade-level standards.

- Teachers will complete LETRS professional development through an ongoing series that improve reading knowledge and effective strategies for teachers.

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, Mrs. Olivia Lattimore at 336-370-8150 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 **@Falkener ES**
- Volunteer.
- Join the Falkener PTO.

This may sound 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://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards

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:

- Adjusted our master schedule to ensure more instructional time for students.
- Increased planning time for teachers to ensure quality lessons.
- Developed student leadership groups to focus on supporting student's personal and academic growth.
- Developed a girl's mentoring program that meets biweekly.
- Implemented strategies to support healthy student attendance.
- Partnered with North Carolina A&T State University and community organizations to provide additional academic and enrichment support for students.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Mrs. Lattimore at lattimo@gcsnc.com or 336-370-8150

Sincerely,

Olivia Lattimore
Principal
Waldo C. Falkener Elementary School