



November 22, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student in Waldo C. Falkener Elementary School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Waldo C. Falkener Elementary School, has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), North Carolina had to identify schools for targeted support and improvement. TSI-AT schools in North Carolina are those that have a subgroup that is under-performing. The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

As a TSI-AT school, Waldo C. Falkener Elementary School 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 the progress of our school. The comprehensive 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 Waldo C. Falkener Elementary School this year:

- School Performance Composite Goal: By June 2023, Falkener Elementary students will increase the school performance composite from 23.9% to a minimum of 28.3%.
- By June 2023, Falkener Elementary School will decrease the number of students severely and moderately absent by at least 5 percentage points for each tier and decrease the overall chronic absence rate from 46.4% to 40.1%.
- By June 2023, Falkener Elementary will reduce the amount of lost instructional days for students due to out of school suspensions by at least 10% from 99 lost instructional days to 90 as measured by the school discipline report.
- FAM-S Goal: By June 2023, the leadership team will ensure professional development and coaching for all staff on multi-tiered instruction and intervention relative to their job roles/responsibilities to reduce the number of students receiving tier 2 interventions by 5%.
- By June 2023, Falkener Elementary will increase 3rd grade ELA proficiency scores from 22.2% to a minimum of 25.7%.

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 Waldo C. Falkener Elementary School will be implementing:

- Implementation of Opportunity Culture at all grade levels and all students will have access to great teachers through the placement of multi classroom leaders, (MCLs).
- MCLs 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 learning 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.

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 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, **@Falkener ES**
- Volunteer.
- Join the **Falkener PTA**.

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://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards>

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

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

Sincerely,



Olivia Lattimore, Principal