



November 29, 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in Bessemer Elementary School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Bessemer Elementary has been designated as a Comprehensive Support & Improvement Low-Performing (CSI-LP) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(c)(4)(D)(i), North Carolina had to identify schools for comprehensive support and improvement. CSI-LP schools in North Carolina are those found in the lowest-performing 5 percent of all schools receiving Title I funding. 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 CSI-LP school, Bessemer 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
- Standard-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 Bessemer this year:

- **ACHIEVEMENT GAP:** *By June 2022, the achievement gap between all Black and Hispanic students in grades 3-5 Math and Reading will decrease by 5 percentage points. (Hispanics currently outperform Black students by 9.8 percentage points in Math (37.0 to 27.2) and 8.0 percentage points in Reading (37.0 to 29.0).)*
- **PERFORMANCE COMPOSITE:** *By June 2022, as measured by our performance composite scores, Bessemer Elementary will increase our school performance composite from 34.5% to 35.9%.*
- **REDUCTION OF LOSS OF INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS:** *By June 2022, Bessemer Elementary will increase the school climate and culture of the instructional environment by decreasing the number of lost days of instruction due to OSS and major office referrals as well as increase the overall school atmosphere of trust, respect and collaboration as measured in the NC TWC. Our goal for discipline, as indicated by Educators Handbook & PowerSchool, is to reduce major office referrals by 10%.*
- **ATTENDANCE:** *By June 2023, students will improve their daily attendance as evidenced by a 10% decrease of students with 9-20 absences (excused/unexcused) and 5% decrease of students having more than 20 absences as indicated by PowerSchool attendance reporting. Teachers will improve their daily attendance by 10% as indicated by AESOP.*



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 Bessemer will be implementing:

- Grade level PLCs will work collaboratively through a well-sequenced backward mapping process using district curriculum materials to design gradual release, differentiated lesson plans based on the North Carolina Standards.
- Every teacher will receive regular, timely and effective feedback from an instructional coach as well as support in improving their instructional and managerial practices.
- Teachers will collect exit-tickets and other formative data to drive their instruction.

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 Felicia Champ at 336-375-2585 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.
- Volunteer.

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://ncreportcards.ondemand.sas.com/src>

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

- Added 4 instructional coaches to our team
- Added a Youth Development Coordinator position to work with students
- Added a Parent Involvement Coordinator position to work with parents

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Chris Sciandra at sciandc2@gcsnc.com or 336-375-2585

Sincerely,

Chris Sciandra
Assistant Principal
Bessemer Elementary

