

FROM
THE OFFICE
OF THE
PRINCIPAL



November 21, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student at George C. Simkins Elementary School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Simkins Elementary, 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, Simkins 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 Simkins Elementary this year:

By June 2023, Simkins Elementary will increase the school performance composite from 33.7 to 38.6.

By June 2023, Simkins Elementary school will increase the 3rd grade Reading composite from 35.2 to 37.7

By June 2023, Simkins Elementary school will reduce the number of chronic absences from 41% to 25%

By June 2023, Simkins will reduce the amount of lost instructional hours by 10% through the development of a tiered behavior support plan.

By June 2023, Simkins Elementary school faculty will increase teacher capacity in literacy instruction by ensuring at least 80% completion of LETRS professional development.

By June 2023, Simkins Elementary will implement a tiered instructional system that allows teachers to deliver evidence-based instruction designed with the individual needs of students across all tiers.

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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 Simkins will be implementing.

- High Dose Tutoring (students below the 20th-percentile in Math and/or Reading on benchmark assessments)
- Supplemental and Core interventions and progress monitoring provided by teachers and staff (students below the 20th-percentile in Math and/or Reading on benchmark assessments)
- Intensive interventions and progress monitoring (students below the 10th – percentile in Math/Reading on benchmark assessments)
- Individual parent conferences (identifying academic gaps, create a plan, monitor progress)

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).
- Contact your child's teacher 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.
- Join the 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. Already, we have:

- highly qualified tutors working with specific groups of students
- data driven instructional decision making happening at all grade levels
- intensive small groups that are focused on targeted areas of need
- a highly effective Intervention Support Team working to meet the needs of students who are consistently working below grade level

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Mr. Zimmerman at zimmerer@gcsnc.com or 336-697-3070

Sincerely,

Edgar Zimmerman Sr.

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