



11/12/2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in Kennedy MS, I am writing this letter to let you know that Kennedy MS, has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. ESSA Section 1111(d)(2) stated that 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 underperforming. This opportunity intends to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

As a TSI-AT school, Kennedy MS 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 our school's progress. 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 Kennedy MS this year:

- To increase the amount of Inclusion service time.
- Improve the quality of specially designed instruction.
- Ensure instruction is 100% aligned to the NC curriculum standards.

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 Kenned MS will be implementing:

- Develop standard aligned units, implement a tiered instructional system, all teachers create supports and interventions within the classroom, the principal monitors curriculum and classroom 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 Kennedy MS 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.
<https://www.cmsk12.org/kennedyMS>
- 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://ncreportcards.ondemand.sas.com/src>

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

- Completed advanced professional development in the following areas.
 - Capturing Kids Hearts
 - Supporting Co-Teaching and Inclusive Practices
 - Benchmark Assessment Data Analysis

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Kevin Sudimack at kevin.sudimack@cms.k12.nc.us or by phone 980-343-5540

Sincerely,

Kevin Sudimack, Principal – Kennedy Middle School