

Wilson STEM Academy

7020 Tuckaseegee Road
Charlotte, NC 28214

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October 3, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly provides parents with an additional measure of school performance in the form of School Performance Grades. Beginning with the 2013–14 school year, the annual North Carolina School Report Cards display a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F for each school in the state.

The School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At Wilson STEM Academy, our achievement score for the 2023-2024 school year is based on how well our students performed on **6–8 Mathematics, Grades 6–8 English Language Arts/Reading, and 8 Science**. The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Wilson STEM Academy, has been designated as a low performing school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As defined in G.S. 115C-105.37: "The State Board of Education shall identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15."

Wilson STEM Academy received a School Performance Grade of **F** and a growth designation of **Met** for the 2023–2024 school year. Although we are committed to improving this score, it is important to remember that just as no one single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about the performance of a school or the opportunities that our school provides. Wilson STEM Academy is committed to addressing the unique academic, emotional, and social needs of our middle school scholars. Our instructional framework includes engaging scholars daily in writing, inquiry, collaboration, organization, and rigorous tasks. We will be utilizing i-Ready, a supplemental platform that uses scholar's diagnostic data to differentiate instruction for scholars based on their learning needs. In conjunction with Project Lead The Way, a nationally recognized computer science education organization, Wilson STEM Academy curriculum includes such computer science courses as Design and Modeling, App Creators, and Computer Science for Innovators and Makers. Scholars will also engage in STEM opportunities and challenges (problem solving, critical thinking, and teamwork skills) which are integrated into all other classes as well. In addition to a robust curriculum, our scholars have multiple opportunities to engage in project-based interdisciplinary learning in all core content areas.

As a low performing school, we are required to develop an improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve both the school performance grade and school growth score. The plan will also include how the superintendent and other central office administrators in the district will work with us and monitor the progress of our school. We are already engaged in the work of refining our plan and will present the plan to our school board at their next meeting, October 8, 2024, where the plan will be presented for approval. The final plan will be available for review <https://www.cmsk12.org/wilsonstemMS>.

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One of our top priorities for 2024–2025 is to improve our School Performance Grade. There are a number of key programs we have in place to help improve student performance. These include:

- Literacy Extension Blocks: All scholars will take Literacy Enrichment in conjunction with their core ELA classes to support and provide scholars with an additional layer of academic interventions and intentional instructional support aligned to grade level specific standards.
- i-Ready is the district approved learning program that we will utilize this year to support with academically monitoring scholar's academic progress. These programs will also aid in identifying gaps in instruction that will support our teachers with making the necessary shifts in instructional delivery and task development.

We hope you will closely follow your student's academic progress and work with his or her teacher(s) to help ensure they stay on track academically. Working together as a team, we can improve not only how well our students are performing individually, but how our school is performing as a whole. There is nothing more important to administrators and teachers at Wilson STEM Academy than ensuring students are ready for the next step in their academic careers. I look forward to working with you to make sure your student is on track for success.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our School Performance Grade and how we plan to improve, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Patrice McCauley, Principal.

Sincerely,

Patrice McCauley