

Coulwood STEM Academy

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November 22, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in Coulwood STEM Academy, I am writing this letter to let you know that Coulwood STEM Academy, has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement-Consistently Underperforming (TSI-CU) 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-CU schools in North Carolina have student subgroup(s) that are consistently 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-CU school, Coulwood STEM Academy 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 Coulwood STEM Academy this year:

- Ensure that all students can fully demonstrate the capacities of college and career readiness.
- Provide effectively designed instruction based on a written, taught, and assessed curriculum.
- Provide a positive school climate under CMS regulation, JICK-R, by promoting a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassing behaviors.
- Student achievement will increase and meet high growth status, due to effective lesson planning and learning facilitation.
- School culture will support students' emotional needs.

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 Coulwood STEM Academy will be implementing:

- Gender-based classrooms in grades 6 through 8
- Literacy support in grades 6-8
- Rigorous STEM electives
- Assessing and measuring student progress throughout the school year.

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 Melanie Williams (School Social Worker), 980-343-6090 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/coulwoodMS>.
- Volunteer.
- Join the Coulwood STEM Academy Family Engagement Committee

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:

- Melanie Williams (School Social Worker): 980-343-6090
- 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>

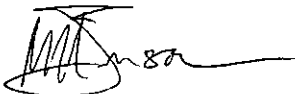
We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your student.

Already, we have:

- Met or exceeded growth in all areas for all sub-groups for 2023-2024.
- Implemented the AVID program
- Implemented the Cambridge program.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Michael Hamilton-Genson at m1.hamilton-genson@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-6090.

Sincerely,



Michael Hamilton-Genson