

Date: Nov. 28, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in Cotswold Elementary, I am writing this letter to let you know that **Cotswold Elementary** 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 **Cotswold Elementary**, is required to develop a comprehensive plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement with the identified subgroup of students with disabilities. 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:

- Social and Emotional Learning
- Climate and School Culture
- 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 **Cotswold Elementary** this year:

- ***Provide duty-free instructional planning time for every teacher under G.S. 115C-105.27 and -301.1, with the goal of providing an average of at least five hours of planning time per week, to the maximum extent that the safety and proper supervision of students may allow during regular student contact hours. (Indicator: A2.04)***
- ***Provide a positive school climate, under CMS regulation JICK-R, by promoting a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassing behaviors (Indicator: A4.06).***
- ***The percent of Black and Hispanic 3rd grade students combined who score at the College and Career Ready (CCR) level -- a 4 or 5 -- on the English Language Arts (ELA) EOG will increase from 3.2% in SY 2021-22 to 26.6% in SY 2022-23 and 50% in SY 2023-24 (Indicators: A2.04, A4.01, A.4.16, B.101, B1.03, B2.03, B3.03, C2.01,E1.06)***
- ***We will exceed Educator Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) growth for our overall school index in SY2022-23 and SY 2023-24. The percentage of students in Grades 2-5 that have a growth projection that met their annual growth projection in Mathematics on the Measure of***

Academic Progress (MAP) assessment will increase from 40% in June 2021, 60% in 2023, and to 70% in June 2024. (Indicators: A2.04, A4.01, A 4.16, B1.01, B1.03, B2.03, B3.03, B3.04, C2.01, C3.04,E.106)

- *The percent of students reporting a positive self-perception of their self-efficacy will increase from 60% on the Spring 2021 Panorama Screener (in Grades 3- 5) to 70% in SY 2022-23 and 80% in SY 2023-24. (Indicators: (A1.07, A4.01, A4.06)*
- *Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) disproportionately for Black students will decrease from 39.8% in SY 2021-22 to 31.4% in SY 2022-23 and 23% in SY 2023-24. (Indicators: A4.01, A4.06, and E1.06)*
- *We will increase our students with disabilities subgroup performance grade from a F to a D or higher in 2023-24.*

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 Cotswold Elementary will be implementing:

- *Instructional leaders will clearly identify, monitor, and assess the expected instructional framework for core instruction (Tier I). For example: standards based collaborative planning, balanced literacy framework, math best practices, caring schools curriculum, and Inquiry Based Learning instruction.*
- *The leadership team will establish an observation system and walkthrough data monthly to identify trend data, assess fidelity of collection to identify school-based and differentiated professional development needs.*
- *Establish a process for providing immediate feedback and holding coaching conversations for teaching and learning.*
- *All certified staff will complete quarterly professional development on MTSS practices at the core, supplemental and intensive levels, the updated Standard Treatment Protocol (STP) and Targeted Supported Instruction.*
- *Assess and monitor the structure of our MTSS framework and TSI work to address the effectiveness of supplemental and intensive intervention plans.*
- *Teachers will use common assessments and quarterly data to identify groups of students that have not mastered specific core content. We will use flexible grouping to remediate, provide extra practice, and enrich students to enhance understanding of the targeted core objectives.*
- *MTSS Leadership team will meet to analyze and discuss data of our students on supplement and intensive plans.*
- *TSI professional development will be held.*
- *All subgroups will be provided quality grade level, rigorous instruction daily.*

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 ***or Parent Square your child's homeroom 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 <https://www.cmsk12.org/cotswoldES>
- Volunteer.
- Join the Cougar PTA: www.cougarpta.com

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:

- Math Envisions 2020
- Caring Schools Curriculum
- EL Curriculum
- Our staff has completed MTSS PD
- Support Staff on schedules to be proactive and support teachers and students

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Alicia Hash at aliciaghash@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-6720.

Sincerely,

Alicia Hash
Principal