

Joseph W. Grier Academy  
8330 Grier Rd.  
Charlotte, NC 28215

November 30, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in **Joseph W. Grier Academy**, I am writing this letter to let you know that **Joseph W. Grier 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, **Joseph W. Grier 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 **Joseph W. Grier Academy** this year:

- We will increase our SWD subgroup performance grade from an F to a D or higher by 2024. (Aligns to A4.01 and CMS Goal 4)
- We will exceed expected Educator Value-Added Assessment System (EVAAS) growth for our overall school index in SY2022-23 and SY 2023-24.
- Out-of-school suspension (OSS) disproportionately for Black students will decrease from 36.6% in SY 2021-22 to 29.8% in SY2022-23 and 23.0% in SY2023-24. (Capturing Kids Hearts)
- 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 15.9% in SY2021-22 to 29.8% in SY2022-23 and 50.0% in SY2023-24. (31% of 3rd grade students are Spanish-speaking MLs)
- The percentage of students reporting a positive self-perception of their self-management on the Fall Panorama Screener (in Grades 3-5) will increase from 72% in September 2021 to 75% in September 2024. (Master schedule and use of SEL curriculum and resources)

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 **Joseph W. Grier Academy** will be implementing:

- Intentional Professional Learning Community (PLC) planning
- Conduct Classroom walkthroughs
- Analyze IEPs, LEPS, and TD plans,
- PD for inclusive practices, Get Better Faster with coaching trajectories and feedback,
- Utilize the strategic master schedule for What I Need (WIN) Block-small group and 90-minute planning.

Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways we can work together:

- Ensure that both you and your student know the 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 Karen Potter at [kerenj.potter@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:kerenj.potter@cms.k12.nc.us) if you have questions or concerns about your student or to set up an appointment to meet with a school staff member 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 <https://www.cmsk12.org/josephwgrierES>
- Volunteer.
- Join the **Joseph W. Grier Academy 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:

- Karen Potter at [kerenj.potter@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:kerenj.potter@cms.k12.nc.us)
- Graduation requirements: [www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: [www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/)
- State student achievement test results: [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/](http://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:

- We have strong PLC structures in place
- Core Actions Walkthroughs
- Data dives
- MVPA 1 growth in ELA and math
- Strategic use of Teacher Leadership Pathway to impact student outcomes

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Bridget Wilson** at [bridget.wilson@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:bridget.wilson@cms.k12.nc.us) or 980-343-5671.

Sincerely,

Bridget Wilson

