

November 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 **Matthews Elementary School**, I am writing this letter to let you know that **Matthews 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, **Matthews Elementary** 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 **Matthews Elementary** this year:

- The percent of students reporting a positive self-perception of their self-efficacy will increase from 68% on the Fall 2021 Panorama Screener in grades 3-5 to 73% in SY2022-23 and 78% in SY2023-24. (A4.06 CMS Guardrail 3).
- The percent of Black and Hispanic third-grade students combined who score at the College and Career Ready (CCR) level 4 or 5 in English Language Arts (ELA) will increase from 17.3% in SY2021-2022 to 33.6% in SY2022-2023 and 50% in SY2023-24. (A2.04 and B3.03 CMS Goal 1).
- Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) disproportionality for Black students will decrease from 30.3% in SY2021-22 to 25.3% in SY2022-23 and 20.3% in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A4.06 and CMS Guardrail 1).
- We will meet or exceed expected Educator Value Added Assessment System (EVAAS) growth for our overall school index in SY2022-23 and SY2023-24. (Aligns to A4.01 and B3.03 and CMS Goal 4).

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 **Matthews Elementary** will be implementing:

- Align instructional planning to Core Actions to increase rigor, engagement and standards alignment for all instructional blocks. (Aligns to ALL goals and FAM-S 29).
- PLCs will review data after each MAP/DIBELS and benchmark assessment window to determine next steps to address student needs ensuring a focus on the progress of our Black and Hispanic students. (Aligns to 3rd grade ELA and EVAAS)
- ML teacher will review data after each MAP/DIBELS assessment window with administration to determine next steps to address student needs ensuring a focus on our Hispanic students. (Aligns to 3rd grade ELA and EVAAS)
- Within the 2023-24 school year, Matthews ES will implement the following evidenced-based interventions, EL Skills Block Supplemental Instruction (Tier 2), Orton-Gillingham (Tier 3), and Check In Check Out (Tier 2 behavioral support) to increase overall performance of our Black and Hispanic subgroups.
- All staff members will be trained in Restorative Practices and Restorative Circles to better help staff process with students who have behavioral challenges and better address student needs as well as address their own needs. (Aligns to SEL, OSS, and FAM-S 30)

- Continue to implement a peer mediation program to decrease the number of out of school suspensions. (Aligns to SEL, OSS, FAM-S 30 and 31)
- Conduct walkthroughs and/or observations with focus on Core Actions, with a focus on Skills Block, ALL Block, and MTSS, to provide weekly constructive feedback on implementation of best practices in ELA; principal, assistant principal, and dean of students will conduct walkthroughs and observations (Aligns to 3rd grade ELA, EVAAS, and FAM-S 29)

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 **Matthews Elementary at 980-343-3940** 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/matthewsES>.
- Volunteer.
- Join the **MPTO**

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:

- **Shannon Kromer (K,2,4) and Susan Lefko (1,3,5): School Counselors**
- 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:

- School Based Mental Health options for families
- Small group supplemental and intensive instruction as well as extension of instruction is provided by classroom teachers, exceptional children's teachers, and talent development teachers.
- Matthews PTO had a successful Boosterthon Fundraiser to provide additional resources for the school.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Catherine Bish at catherine.bish@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-3940.**

Sincerely,

Penni Beth Crisp
Principal
Matthews Elementary