

Garinger High School

1100 Eastway Drive
Charlotte, NC 28205

Phone 980-343-6450
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October 20, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

- The percent of students scoring College and Career Ready (CCR) on Math I assessments will increase from 2.7 to 12.3% in the 2024-25 school year
- The percent of rising 12th grade students on track from high school enrolled, enlisted, or employed will increase from 64.8% to 67.8%
- The percent of students scoring Grade Level Proficient (GLP), (Students with Disabilities), on English II End of Course assessment will increase from 18.2% in 2023-24 to 23.2% in school year 2024-25
- The number of OSS/ISS incidents will decrease by 3 percentage points in 2024-25
- The percentage of chronic absenteeism will decrease from 48.9% in 2023-24 to 45.9% in the 2024-25 school year
- The school will retain 80% of licensed classroom teachers through the 2024-25 school year

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 *Garinger High School* will be implementing:

- Implement AVID Emerge curriculum for multilingual learners (ML), utilize ML counselors, and implement an ML mentoring program to support academic improvement and graduation rate increase.
- A Multi-Tiered System of Support (MTSS) Leadership Team will review D/F reports, absenteeism reports, and GSI reports to determine academic needs and interventions for students.
- The school is initiating a tardy plan to address chronic/excessive tardies to school, weekly tardy reports will be generated to address students who are chronically late/tardy.
- Multi-Classroom Leaders (MCLs), academic facilitators and new teacher coaches will help mitigate inequity by providing coaching and feedback cycles to teachers, and implementation of instructional interventions using iReady for math and Achieve the Core for English.
- Graduation coaches, college advisor, college and career coach, and career development coordinator will support an overall increase in student performance and future readiness.

Staff members will assist with progress monitoring student recovering course credits to increase the cohort.

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graduation rate and better prepare students to be college and career ready.

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 *John Lester*, (980) 343-6450 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/garingerHS>.
- Volunteer.
- Join the *Garinger Parent Teacher Association (PTSA)*

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 students. Already, we have:

- Improved Communication: Weekly bulletins and newsletters are shared with staff to include key updates, events and recognition. Weekly Parent Square communication is on the horizon for families to receive the beginning second quarter.
- Staff and Student Wellness: The school psychologist has implemented a zen room for staff and students to decompress and have wellness and relation to support mind, body and the heart.
- School Beautification: This summer, alumni, staff and volunteers worked together to enhance school pride by improving the campus facility for the opening of the school year.
- Open House: There was strong parent involvement in our Open House event in August over 300 families attended the event in preparation for the first day of school.
- School Spirit: Garinger alumni hosted a golf tournament and raised over \$4000 to donate to the athletic program. Student government hosted Homecoming 2024 and led a walking pep rally throughout the school and homecoming halftime program for students, families and fans.
- Teacher Collaboration: Professional learning communities of teachers are working collaboratively weekly to review resources, discuss student improvement ideas and plan strong and effective lessons.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact John Lester at john.lester@cms.k12.nc.us or (980) 343-6450.

Sincerely,


Terra Kennedy, Principal