



October 30, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

- We will increase our students with disabilities subgroup performance grade from a F to a D or higher in 2024-25.
- The percent of students scoring College and Career Ready (CCR) on reading End of Grade assessments in grades 3-5 will increase from 15.6% in SY 2023-24 to 25.4% by in SY2024-25.
- We will increase our students with disabilities subgroup performance grade from a F to a D or higher in 2024-25.
- The percent of students scoring Grade Level Proficient (GLP) on the End of Grade assessments in grades 3-8 will increase from 30.5% in SY 2023-24 to 40.5% in SY 2024-25
- The percent of Chronic Absenteeism will decrease from 17.4% in SY 2023-24 to 15.4% in SY 2024-25
- The school will retain 75% of its highly effective classroom teachers throughout SY 2024-25

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 Walter G. Byers will be implementing:

- Small Group Instruction
- i-Ready Pathway Lessons
- Providing professional development and coaching support to teachers through professional



- learning communities (PLCs)
- Focusing on Social Emotional Learning through Capturing Hearts
 - Small class size or strategic staffing for classes
 - Implementation of Cycles of Continuous Improvement for instructional units
 - Retained a MTSS specialist to support students in Tier III of intervention
 - Implementation of a House System aligned to Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS)
 - Training certain teachers in Orton-Gillingham to teach struggling and non-readers how to read

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 MCL/Title 1 Coordinator: Aaron Kean (704-516-9520) 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
 - School website - <https://www.cmsk12.org/Page/648>.
 - Parent Square - <https://www.parentsquare.com/schools/18765/feeds>
 - Instagram - <https://www.instagram.com/waltergbyersschool/>
 - Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/WGBschool/>
- Join the School Leadership Team

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:

- Implemented our House System
- Decreased our student discipline rate
- Increased student attendance
- All of our core academic classrooms are fully staffed.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Dr. Calandra Davis at calandrah.davis@cms.k12.nc.us or (980) 343-6940.

Sincerely,

Calandra Davis, Ed.D.