



HAROLD E. WINKLER MIDDLE
IB WORLD SCHOOL
4501 Weddington Road
Concord, NC 28027
(704) 260-6450

Rebecca Phillips, Principal
Mary Ann Mundt, AP
Robert Weirich, AP

October 28, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly provides parents with an additional measure of school performance in the form of School Performance Grades. Beginning with the 2013–14 school year, the annual North Carolina School Report Cards display a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F for each school in the state.

The School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At Winkler Middle School, our achievement score for the 2021-2022 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grades 6–8 Mathematics and English Language Arts/Reading, Grade 8 Science, NC Math 1, and English Learner Progress.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Winkler Middle School has been designated as a low performing school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As defined in G.S. 115C-105.37: "The State Board of Education shall identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of 'met expected growth' or 'not met expected growth' as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15."

Winkler Middle School received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of *Not Met* for the 2021–2022 school year. Although we are committed to improving this score, it is important to remember that just as no one single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell everything about the performance of a school or the opportunities that our school provides. We are very proud that Winkler Middle School is an authorized International Baccalaureate School for Middle Years. This special designation gives each student the opportunity to leave Winkler Middle with high school credit in a World Language course. Our IB program also introduces students to the importance of community service. All students participate in active IB units where they are able to research, plan, and put service into action in our school and around our community. Winkler has also been redesignated as a National Forum School to Watch. This special designation was granted based off academic excellence, developmental responsiveness, social equity, and the implementation of organizational structures that support the success of our students.

As a low performing school, Winkler Middle School is required to develop an improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve both the school performance grade and school growth score. The plan will also include how the superintendent and other central office administrators in the district will work with us and monitor the progress of our school. We are already engaged in the work of refining our plan and will present our plans to our school board at their November 1, 2022, meeting at the Board of Education building where the plan will be presented for approval. The final plan will be available for review at the following address <https://www.cabarrus.k12.nc.us/domain/15075>.



We are a community committed to growing and learning together.





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One of our top priorities for 2022–2023 is to improve our School Performance Grade. There are several key programs we have in place to help improve student performance. These include:

- Strengthening our MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Supports) structures to help target growth in all areas of EOG proficiency. MTSS allows for teachers and parents to work together to develop plans that will support students who need the additional help in the areas of math, reading, and behavior.
- Incorporating data-driven, differentiated, small-group instruction to help all students continue to increase proficiency. This includes incorporating a daily intervention/enrichment period, which groups and supports students based on individual need. This time allows teachers to provide supports in all areas, including academics and social/emotional learning using the Positivity Project.
- Continuing to teach students to embody the IB mission statement and learner profile traits in all classrooms through globally-minded activities throughout the year. We will also be communicating IB grades to parents this school year through Parent Portal, which will provide opportunities for discussion at home and school.

We hope you will closely follow your student's academic progress and work with his or her teacher(s) to help ensure he or she stays on track academically. Working together as a team, we can improve not only how well our students are performing individually, but how our school is performing as a whole. There is nothing more important to administrators and teachers at Winkler Middle School than ensuring students are ready for the next step in their academic careers. I look forward to working with you to make sure your student is on track for success.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our School Performance Grade and how we plan to improve, please don't hesitate to contact me at Rebecca.Phillips@cabarrus.k12.nc.us.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Phillips
Principal



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