



William Lenoir Middle School

We Learn, Mature, Succeed

1366 Wildcat Trail
Lenoir, NC 28645
Telephone 828-726-3910
Fax 828-758-1570

WLSMS Mission: To provide all students the opportunity for quality education in order to become successful citizens.

Ryan Cooper, Principal

Celine Ellison, Assistant Principal

11/20/2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing this letter to notify you that William Lenoir Middle School has been dually designated as both a North Carolina Low-Performing school and a federally identified Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) 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." Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long North Carolina General Assembly session 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.

School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At William Lenoir Middle, our achievement score for the 2022-2023 school year is based on how well our students performed on: Grades 6–8 Mathematics, Grades 6–8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grade 8 Science, Math I, and additional indicators including English Learner Progress. William Lenoir Middle received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of Did Not Meet for the 2022–2023 school year.

In addition, per the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1111(d)(2), schools receive the federal identification of TSI-AT in North Carolina by having one or more of the following subgroups receive a subgroup performance grade score at or below the lowest 5% of schools across the state during the 2021-2022 academic year; and being identified as a consistently underperforming subgroup in 2019-2020. Subgroup performance scores are provided for the following subgroups of students: (1) Students with Disabilities, (2) Economically Disadvantaged, (3) Black, (4) White, (5) Hispanic, (6) Asian-Pacific Islander, (7) Multi-racial, and (8) English Learners.

As a dually designated TSI-AT and NC low-performing school, William Lenoir Middle is required to develop a comprehensive improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement. The plan will also include strategies that our district or charter will employ to support William Lenoir Middle School's improvement efforts. The comprehensive improvement plan will address the following areas:



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- 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 William Lenoir Middle this year:

- WLMS students will meet or exceed expected growth in Math and ELA for the 2023-2024 School Year
- WLMS students will grow to 50% proficiency in Math and ELA for the 2023-2024 school year

Here are some strategies that William Lenoir Middle will be implementing to improve student outcomes:

- WLMS teachers will attend weekly PLC meetings where they will discuss and plan for rigorous, standards-based instruction.
- WLMS staff will use progress monitoring data quarterly to assign students to appropriate intervention and enrichment groups.

Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways you can help:

- Ensure you and your child know the academic expectations for your child this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your child's teacher(s).
- Call William Lenoir Middle at (828) 726-3910 if you have questions or concerns about your child or to set up an appointment to meet with a school staff member who will be working with your child.
- Make sure that your child is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your child's homework.
- Monitor the progress your child is making and attend meetings with your child's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website and social media sites at:
<https://www.caldwellschools.com/Domain/101> and
https://www.facebook.com/people/William-Lenoir-Middle-School/100063684215154/?ref=embed_page
- Volunteer.
- Join the William Lenoir PTA



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Additionally, listed below are a few 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://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards>

We are committed to improving student performance. 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 you everything about the performance of a school or the opportunities that our school provides. The intent of receiving these designations is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your child. Already, we have:

- Adjusted our master schedule to accommodate a more effective intervention and enrichment period
- Hired a Student Support Specialist to assist with data gathering and teacher coaching
- Re-established Unified Champions club

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Ryan Cooper at rcooper@caldwellschools.com or (828) 726-3910.

Sincerely,

Ryan Cooper



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