



126 HAY STREET | FAYETTEVILLE, NC 28301
PH: 910-849-0888 | FAX: 910-491-6786
CAPITOLENCOREACADEMY.ORG

11/30/2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing this letter to notify you that The Capitol Encore Academy has been 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. The North Carolina State Board of Education requires notice for parents and guardians regarding the designation of a school as Continually Low Performing (CLP) if that school 1) receives a D or F letter grade, and 2) Earns a performance growth rate of “met” or “did not meet”. For the 2022-2023 school year, TCEA students “met” academic growth, and the school as a whole earned a D grade for average academic proficiency (missing a C by just one point). We have received the CLP designation.

While many TCEA students performed well on the exams, the D grade indicates that not enough students learned what they needed to progress to the next grade. We continually work to prepare all our students for the next grade.

But we do have good news for TCEA and our students. Our 2023 results show that TCEA students met Academic Growth expectations. This means students’ rate of academic growth from the previous grade to the testing grade was on target.

In fact, TCEA students met expected growth in all tested grade and subject areas: grades 4-8 Math, grades 3-8 Reading, high school biology, high school English II, and high school Math I. Looking more closely at test data reveals that most TCEA students are performing similarly, regardless of their background or family circumstances.

Our overall grade level proficiency score increased nearly 10 points from 39% in 2022 to 48% in 2023. This included a 9 point increase in reading proficiency, 8 point increase in math proficiency, and 11 point increase in science proficiency. Furthermore, TCEA outperformed the majority of Cumberland County Schools (CCS) in overall growth, and



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earned higher proficiency scores than CCS in grades 3-8 Reading, Science, and high school English II.

More good news is that TCEA employs teachers with proven records of helping students meet growth across the tested subject areas. Nationwide, schools and students academic proficiency and growth declined during the COVID pandemic, but TCEA's dedicated classroom, EC, and intervention teachers work diligently and in unity to ensure students are prepared to progress to the next level.

I am confident that based on our plan, our personnel, and our drive to see our students succeed that TCEA will see strong growth and increases in proficiency in the 2023-2024 school year. We track student performance all year and our beginning of year math and reading assessments indicate that students are well positioned for both growth and overall proficiency in math and reading near the national average. This early data shows improvement over past years and reflects the hard work by our staff, our returning and new students, and their families.

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. While TCEA is working hard to improve overall math, reading, and science proficiency across subgroups, we were pleased this year that we met or exceeded overall growth within every subgroup measured by the state at the conclusion of EOG and EOC testing.

As a dually designated TSI-AT and NC low-performing school, The Capitol Encore Academy 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 The Capitol Encore Academy's improvement efforts. The comprehensive improvement plan will address the following areas:

- Classroom Management
- Standards-aligned Instruction
- 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

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



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year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your child's teacher(s).

- Contact your child's homeroom teacher or building administrator 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 ClassDojo.
- Join the Friends of Encore Organization

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.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please feel free to contact me through ClassDojo or my email address which is listed below.

Sincerely,
Gerard Falls
Superintendent, The Capitol Encore Academy
gfalls@capitolencoreacademy.org