



Anitra D. Wells, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

Be Somebody!

October 17, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in Lexington City Schools, I am writing this letter to let you know that Lexington City Schools has been designated by the state as one of 24 Low Performing Districts. This number is up from 9 in the 2018-2019 school year. The number of NC Low Performing Schools increased from 488 to 864.

Lexington Senior High, Lexington Middle, South Lexington Pre-K/DC, and Charles England Elementary School have been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), 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 under-performing. The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. The underperforming subgroup for these schools is Students with Disabilities (SWD).

As a TSI-AT school, each of these schools is required to develop a comprehensive plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement. The plan will also include how the district will support and monitor the progress throughout the district. 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 Lexington City Schools this year:

- As assessed by End-of-Grade and End-of-Course exams, we will increase the performance of our SWD and ELL subgroups by at least 10% points by June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023.
- As assessed by End-of-Grade and End-of-Course exams, we will increase our overall proficiency

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performance by at least 6% points.

- As assessed by EVAAS data, all schools in LCS will meet or exceed expected growth for the 2022-2023 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 we will be implementing:

- We will support students in tracking their own individual performance. Students in tested areas will be expected to maintain their data and conduct Student Led Conferences during the year.
- Teachers supporting SWD will receive professional development in providing research based instructional strategies to increase student engagement and academic performance.

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 your child's school 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.lexcs.org/> @JacketParAcad
- Volunteer.
- Join the Jacket Parent Academy or school PTO.

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/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: [www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/)
- State student achievement test results: [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/](http://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:

- Provided schools with training on the use of EVAAS data to identify student performance targets and how to engage students in data conversations about their performance.
- Completed School Improvement Plans to focus on increasing the level of academic performance for all students.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact your child's principal.

Sincerely,



Anitra D. Wells, Superintendent