

## ***E.B. Aycock Middle School***

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Mr. Don Marr  
Principal

Ms. Sharon Ward  
Assistant Principal

Ms. Amanda Davis  
Assistant Principal

November 28, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As a parent/guardian of a student in E.B. Aycock Middle School, I am writing this letter to let you know that E.B. Aycock Middle School, has 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 underperforming. The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

As a TSI-AT school, E.B. Aycock Middle School 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 the progress of our school. 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 E.B. Aycock Middle School this year:

- Each teacher at EB Aycock is trained or in the process of training of PBIS. With the assistance of Administrators, Grade level and Department Chairs the routine of positive reinforcement (PBIS tickets, monthly 9 week jaguar jam and 1 step or less 1st semester ECU game day) students receive praise or rewards for positive behavior and consequences for violating rules.
- Instructional Teams meet weekly in Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) to analyze and discuss data, align instruction and assessments, and plan instruction aligned to the Common Core and NC Essential Standards. All teachers keep record of these units of study in their lesson plans and PLC agenda meeting minutes. Lesson plans are posted each Monday for administration to view. Teachers are also expected to post essential questions and objectives so that students understand the purpose of their learning. This is monitored through classroom walk-throughs and instructional rounds in which we observe student engagement, visible thinking, and evidence of blended learning.

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, but it will require hard work on the part of the staff, students, and families. Here are some strategies E.B. Aycock Middle School will be implementing:

- After-School Tutoring will be starting in January 2023
- EBA Boosters are providing mini-grants to assist teachers with instructional supplies
- Curriculum Nights for each grade level with a focus on core content instruction
- Early Release Staff Training being provided throughout the school year

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 the academic expectations set for your student this school year. A list of learning objectives is available from your student's teacher(s).
- Call E.B. Aycock Middle 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 (<https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/eba>) and check us out on Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064203272471>)
- Volunteer
- Join the Boosters (Parent/Teacher Organization for E.B. Aycock Middle School)

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:

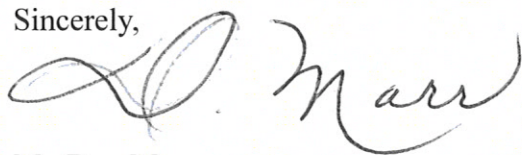
- EBA Counselors: Ms. Kristy Kennedy([kennedk@pitt.k12.nc.us](mailto:kennedk@pitt.k12.nc.us)) and Mr. Kareem Atkinson ([atkinsk@pitt.k12.nc.us](mailto:atkinsk@pitt.k12.nc.us))
- EBA Instructional Coach: Mrs. Nicole Smoot ([smootn@pitt.k12.nc.us](mailto:smootn@pitt.k12.nc.us))
- Graduation requirements: [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://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards>

We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your student. Already, we have:

- Hired a new Student Support Assistant for EBA students
- ELA/Math Remediation classes being made available during Encore for EBA students
- Hired a Reading Support professional to assist students in a small group setting
- Hired an Exceptional Children's support staff

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Don Marr at [marrd@pitt.k12.nc.us](mailto:marrd@pitt.k12.nc.us) or (252) 756-4181.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Don Marr", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mr. Don Marr  
Principal