



**Educational Programs and Services
1717 West Fifth Street
Greenville, North Carolina 27834**

**TEL: 252-830-4235
FAX: 252-830-4290**

November 25, 2019

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student at Northwest Elementary School, I am writing this letter to let you know that Northwest Elementary 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 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.

As a TSI-AT school, Northwest Elementary 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 Northwest Elementary School this year:

1) Northwest Elementary will implement the PLC process in their schools with fidelity and move to pre-initiating to sustaining on the implementation continuum.

- 2) Northwest Elementary will increase school proficiency by 5 to 8 percentage points by providing differentiation, supplemental and intensive instruction where needed.
- 3) Northwest Elementary will reduce suspensions and student time out of class by 20% through utilization of PBIS and district safety procedures.
- 4) By the conclusion of the 19-20 school year, all student subgroups at Northwest Elementary will experience a 20% increase in proficiency and will either meet or exceed growth.
- 5) By the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year, at least 75% of Northwest families will be involved in at least one school-related activity during the 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 Northwest Elementary School will be implementing:

- Small group, differentiated instruction in the areas of reading and math
- Implementation of the character strengths recognition and education program, The Positivity Project
- Family engagement through home visits by school staff and family involvement events throughout the school year
- Implement weekly, 90-minute collaborative planning and support meetings for all teachers (Professional Learning Communities) to ensure that *all* students have opportunities to learn and grow
- AVID strategies for fifth-grade students, with some AVID strategies being implemented in all classrooms

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 Sara English, school principal, at 252-752-6329 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 www.pitt.k12.nc.us/northwest and www.facebook.com/NWETiger/
- Join your child's homeroom class via Class Dojo. This allows you to communicate directly with your child's teacher via Class Dojo message and to receive messages from school leadership. To sign up, please contact your child's teacher.
- Volunteer.

All of this 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/
- 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://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:

- Conducted home visits to at least 25 families
- Implemented a schoolwide, consistent communication platform through Class Dojo
- Hosted family events such as Lunch with Moms and Lunch with Dads
- Reduced our out-of-school-suspension days by 27% from November of 2018 to November of 2019
- Formed an instructional leadership team that guides the work of Professional Learning Communities at Northwest

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Sara English at engliss1@pitt.k12.nc.us or 252-752-6329.

Sincerely,

Sara English
Principal
Northwest Elementary School