



Educational Programs and Services
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September 11, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

- All teachers will employ effective classroom management and reinforce classroom rules and procedures by positively teaching them.
- An Instructional Team will develop standards-aligned units of instruction for each subject and grade level.
- The school will establish a team structure among teachers with specific duties and time for

instructional planning.

- The principal will monitor curriculum and classroom instruction regularly and provide timely, clear, constructive feedback to teachers.
- The LEA will have an LEA Support & Improvement Team.
- A Leadership Team will consist of the principal, teachers who lead the Instructional Teams, and other professional staff and they will meet regularly to review implementation of effective practices.
- The LEA/School will establish a system of procedures and protocols for recruiting, evaluating, rewarding, and replacing staff.
- The school will develop and implement consistent, intentional, and on-going plans to support student transitions from grade-to-grade and level-to-level.
- The school will implement a tiered instructional system that allows teachers to deliver evidence-based instruction aligned with the individual needs of students across tiers.
- The LEA/School will regularly look at school performance data and aggregated classroom observation data, and use that data to make decisions about school improvement and professional development needs.
- All teachers will be attentive to students' emotional states, guide students in managing their emotions, and arrange for supports and interventions when necessary.
- The school will regularly communicate with parents/guardians about its expectations of them and the importance of the curriculum at home.

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 Ayden Elementary will be implementing:

- Increase rigor in all classrooms to assist with students reaching grade level expectations
- Completing common formative assessments
- Data talks among teachers and administration
- Individualized instruction and interventions for students

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 Amy Hilliard at 252-746-2121 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 , Facebook, and Class Dojo
- Volunteer
- Join the Parent Teacher Association

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:

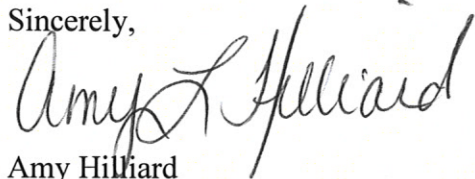
- Ayden Elementary: www.pitt.k12.nc.us
- Graduation requirements: www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/

- 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.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Amy Hilliard at hilliaa@pitt.k12.nc.us or by calling 252-746-2121.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Amy Hilliard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "H".

Amy Hilliard