



J.W. Turlington School
116 W. Prospect Ave.
Raeford, NC 28376

(910) 875-2583

Mr. Gerald C. Puckett, Principal

11/1/2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in **J.W. Turlington School**, I am writing this letter to let you know that **J.W. Turlington 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 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, **J.W. Turlington 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

'TITANS ON THE RISE'

We have set the following goals for J.W. Turlington School this year:

- *All teachers at J.W. Turlington will employ effective classroom management and reduce classroom discipline referrals by 5%.*
- *Instructional Teams will develop standards-aligned units instruction for each grade level and each subject that will increase student achievement on standardized testing by 3%.*
- *Professional Learning Communities will meet twice weekly to analyze student formative and informative data, increasing student proficiency by 2% each quarter.*
- *Our intentional focus on Instructional Leadership will produce 2% student growth over the course of this school year.*
- *Our school mission, enhanced by our L.E.A.D. culture will facilitate the recruitment and retention of highly qualified teachers for all certified positions.*
- *By the end of the school year, every student will receive a personalized education plan through the schoolwide MTSS program, differentiated instruction, and specific data-based targeted interventions.*
- *Our school will regularly look at school performance data and aggregated classroom data and use that data to make decisions about school improvement to increase overall student achievement by 3%.*
- *Through the use of our MTSS program, 10% of our students will move from Tier III to Tier II by the end of the year.*
- *By the end of the year, J.W. Turlington's PTO will grow by 10%.*

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 J.W. Turlington School will be implementing:

- *All teachers will receive ongoing professional development on how to prevent classroom disruptions. In addition, professional development on how to effectively and efficiently address classroom disruptions will be ongoing, as well.*
- *All teachers will participate in district vertical planning meetings, collaborate, analyze common formative assessment data, and implement data-based best practices to ensure increased student achievement.*
- *Core teachers will participate in PLC's with the purpose of analyzing student data. Collaboration with Elective teachers will take place during these times, as well, to foster a schoolwide approach to increasing student achievement. Elective teachers, through collaboration with core teachers, will incorporate a focus on academic vocabulary which will lead to increased student access to instruction.*
- *Teachers in the building have "Battle Buddies." Throughout each quarter, "Battle Buddies" will meet, discuss classroom experiences from implementation of an intentional focus on Instructional Leadership, and strategies to use in differentiation of instruction.*
- *Our L.E.A.D. culture is a fresh perspective on how we go about our daily business of educating our students. Each teacher will demonstrate a love of learning by utilizing our Titan Time to engage students, help them set goals, and strive to become college, career,*

and life-ready. This approach allows teachers to utilize their individual gifts and talents to let students connect with them in a way teachers can clearly see the positive impact they have on their students. This is what retains qualified teachers.

- *Each student is given an assessment to determine their areas of greatest needs. MTSS addresses three critical areas: Attendance, Behavior, Academics. Data analysis of these three vital areas allows us to address the needs of the whole child. A holistic approach is what allows us to tailor a personalized education plan for each student. In so doing, the appropriate, specific data-based targeted interventions will be implemented for each student. Further, this holistic approach entails weekly progress-monitoring. For Attendance, attendance contracts, Drop-Out Prevention Specialist support, weekly/daily phone calls to parents, reward system for improved attendance, along with teaching the student the correlation to attendance and academic success. In regard to Behavior, behavior support sessions, core supports, Tier II interventions, Tier III(intensive) interventions, Functional Behavior Assessments, Behavior Improvement Plans, along with regular professional development for staff. With Academics being so important, Student Support Services will work continuously throughout the school year to monitor these critical areas and act as an extension to facilitate meetings when these areas need to be addressed to ensure student success. When a student needs additional support to successfully access the content in the classroom, the team will take the necessary steps to implement the personalized education plan to make sure that equity is provided to every student for a sound, basic education.*
- *The School Improvement Team and the MTSS Teams meet twice monthly to review and progress-monitor the performance of the school. Student achievement is a primary focus. Also, the needs of the staff are addressed. These meetings ensure that the Administration has the information and collaboration necessary to make the best data-driven decisions for school improvement and continued student success. Data is the driving force behind all decisions made and will be for the success of J.W. Turlington School. Our school has made strides so far this year, but continues to work to improve our performance. With each staff member embracing and implementing the School Improvement Plan, growth is sure to take place.*
- *Our intention this year is to move 10% of our students from Tier III to Tier II. Attendance is one area where we are looking to improve our data. Attendance is such a critical factor in Academic performance and we do realize that if we target Attendance, we should be able to see an improvement in Academic performance. In our building, we are recognizing students for regular attendance, improved attendance, no matter how minimal the improvement is, it deserves to be acknowledged. Just the recognition of this alone, will increase the self-esteem of our students who struggle in this area. When the student is able to see the positive correlation between being in school and improved classroom performance this will change the culture of a school for the better.*
- *The most important piece to the plan for J.W. Turlington's success in improving our school performance is parental involvement. Traditionally, parent involvement has been low, but we are working to increase that. Through our revised enrollment/re-entry process, we have found that parents appreciate the transparency in finding out exactly what they can do to help their child be successful. Also, strong and healthy relationships are formed between parents and school. This is what is needed to reinforce what is being taught in the classroom. To join our PTO is a minimal investment with the possibility of*

a huge return - student success! We are positive that when our parent involvement increases, our student achievement will do the same. We will move J.W. Turlington forward with the support of our parents.

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 ***Mr. Gerald Puckett, (910) 875-2583*** 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.hcs.k12.nc.us>.
- Volunteer.
- Join the ***J.W. Turlington 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:

- ***Maggie's Outreach@ (910) 875-6623: <http://mcedc.com>***
- 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:

- ***L.E.A.D. Culture***
- ***Revised enrollment process & Re-entry process***
- ***Intentional Parent Engagement***
- ***Increased student ownership of learning***

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Gerald Puckett at (910) 875-2583.**

Sincerely,

Gerald C. Puckett

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