



November 21, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in **Harding University High School**, I am writing this letter to let you know that **Harding University High School** has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. ESSA Section 1111(d)(2) stated that 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. This opportunity intends to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

As a TSI-AT school, **Harding University High 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 our school's progress. 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 **Harding University High School** this year:

- Increase the on-time graduation rate from 69.3% to 84.1%. (Aligns to A4.16 and CMS Goal 3)
- The percent of high school students who score at the College and Career (CCR) level -- a 4 or 5 -- on the Math 1 EOC (grades 9-12) will increase from 2.1% in SY2021-22 to 13.6% in SY2022-23 and 25% in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A2.04 and B3.03 and CMS Goal 2)
- The percent of graduates earning a state high school endorsement will increase from 12.4% in SY2021-22 to 43.7% in SY2022-23 and 75% in SY2023-24. (Aligns to A4.16 and CMS Goal 3)

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 **Harding University High School** will be implementing:

- Track and monitor the current year's graduation cohort (GSI)
- Track attendance of all seniors and develop contracts with student and parents
- Track senior failure quarterly and develop recovery contracts with students, teachers, and parents
- Continuation of Credit Recovery on the Main Campus as a course in the schedule during the regular school day

- Monthly checkpoint meetings with counselor (students)
- Bi-weekly progress monitoring with instructional leadership team
- Continuation of graduation lab for Credit Recovery (afterschool with certified teachers)
- Monthly cohort meeting and activity to promote engagement
- Monthly parent information meetings

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 counselor at 980-343-6007 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.cmsk12.org/hardinguniversityHS>>
- Volunteer. Contact Ms. Ms. Connelly (980-343-6007) to inquire further about volunteering.
- Join the HUHS PTSA. Contact Ms. Johnson-Scott at 980-343-6007

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:

- HUHS Website: <<https://www.cmsk12.org/hardinguniversityHS>>
- 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:

- Celebrated by our superintendent for providing top C.R.O.W.N. experience
- Recognized by the district for EOC growth in English II, Math I, Math III, and Biology
- Implementation of Capturing Kids Hearts Commitments and Social Contracts
- Activation HUHS Parent Square Communication to families

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Principal Glenn Starnes II at glennl.starnes@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-6007.

Sincerely,



Glenn L. Starnes,
Principal