

Dear Bulldog Families,

Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly provides parents with an additional measure of school performance in the form of School Performance Grades. Beginning with the 2013–14 school year, the annual North Carolina School Report Cards display a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F for each school in the state.

The School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At Alexander Graham Middle School, our achievement score for the 2022-2023 school year is based on how well our students performed on:

- Grades 6-8 Mathematics EOG
- Grades 6-8 Reading EOG
- Grade 8 Science EOG
- North Carolina Math 1 EOC
- Extend 1 (an alternate assessment for students using the Extended Content Standards)
- Multilingual Learner Process (formerly, English Language Learners)

These scores are a combination of overall school proficiency and growth to include how well each subgroup performed.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Alexander Graham Middle School has been designated as a low performing school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As defined in G.S. 115C-105.37: "The State Board of Education shall identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15."

Alexander Graham Middle received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of Did Not Meet for the 2023-2024 school year. Although we are committed to improving this score, it is important to remember that just as no one single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about the performance of a school or the opportunities that our school provides. At Alexander Graham Middle, we are proud of the following:

- 534 students demonstrated Grade Level Proficiency on the Reading EOG in 23-24
- 301 students received a 4 or 5 (CCR) on the Reading EOG in 23-24
- 504 students demonstrated Grade Level Proficiency on the Math EOG in 23-24
- 422 students received a 4 or 5 (CCR) on the Math EOG in 23-24
- 249 students received Grade Level Proficiency on the 8th Grade Science EOG in 23-24
- 216 students received a 4 or 5 (CCR) on the 8th Grade Science EOG in 23-24
- 97/98 students passed the Math 1 EOC in 23/24
- 50+ Year partnership with Optimist Club International Writing Competition for 8th Grade Students
- We have a robust performing arts program to include Theatre, Band, Chorus, Orchestra and Dance. Our programs continue to be award winning.
- We provide Social and Emotional learning for Students through weekly instruction
- Students are sorted into 5 different houses to build community
- We offer after school clubs and have relaunched our National Junior Honor Society and Junior Beta Club leadership opportunities for 24-25

- We provide leadership opportunities for our students through Student Council and other advisory opportunities

As a low performing school, we are required to develop an improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve both the school performance grade and school growth score. The plan will also include how the superintendent and other central office administrators in the district will work with us and monitor the progress of our school. We are already engaged in the work of refining our plan and will present the plan to our school board at their upcoming meeting, Tuesday November 2nd, where the plan will be presented for approval. The final plan will be available for review on the Alexander Graham Middle School website.

One of our top priorities for 2024-2025 is to improve our School Performance Grade. There are a number of key programs we have in place to help improve student performance. These include:

- Increased time of instruction for academic intervention in Must Do Time where all students will be able to engage through iReady and small group instruction for 60-100 minutes per week in every class.
- An intensive ML plan has been updated to work on providing support to students to increase reading proficiency
- An intensive EC plan has been updated to work on providing support to students with exceptionalities.
- Use of guided vocabulary and grammar instruction through supplemental curriculum
- Utilizing the Capturing Kids Hearts framework to increase relationship building between staff and students and minimize classroom disruptions
- Use of honors companion for added rigor and support to students in our honors courses
- Employment of Math and Literacy Master teachers to provide oversight and support to all Math and ELA instruction
- Commitment to using the adopted curriculum with added supports to reach our mastery and remedial level students

We hope you will closely follow your student's academic progress and work with his or her teacher(s) to help ensure they stay on track academically. Working together as a team, we can improve not only how well our students are performing individually, but how our school is performing as a whole. There is nothing more important to administrators and teachers at AGMS than ensuring students are ready for the next step in their academic careers. I look forward to working with you to make sure your student is on track for success.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our School Performance Grade and how we plan to improve, please don't hesitate to contact me at dawseyd.conner@cms.k12.nc.us

Sincerely,

Darryl Conner, Jr., MEd.
Principal