

November 27, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student in Thomasboro Academy, I am writing this letter to let you know that Thomasboro Academy, has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement (ATSI) school this year 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. ATSI 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 an ATSI school, Thomasboro Academy 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 Thomasboro Academy this year:

- We will exceed expected Educator Value Added Assessment System (EVAAS) growth for our overall school index in SY2022-23 and SY2023-24.
- Decrease Out-of-School Suspension (OSS) disproportionately for Black students from 31.4 percentage points to 23 percentage points.
- The percent of Black and Hispanic 3rd grade students combined who score at the College and Career Ready (CCR) level -- a 4 or 5 -- on the English Language Arts (ELA) EOG will increase from 4.1% in SY2021-22 to 27.1% in SY2022-23 and 50% in SY2023-24.
- The percent of 8th grade students who score at the College and Career (CCR) level -- a 4 or 5 -- on the Grade 8 Mathematics EOG will increase from 7.3% in SY2021-22 to 17.1% in SY2022-23 and 28% in SY2023-24.
- The percent of students reporting a positive self-perception of their engagement will increase from 64% on the Fall 2021 Panorama Screener (in Grades 3-5) to 69% in SY2022-23 and 74% in SY2023-24.

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 Thomasboro Academy will be implementing:

- Direct Core Instruction
- Small group/Data based small-group instruction
- MTSS Interventions
- After-school tutoring
- Mentor Groups
- Community Partners

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 Rolando Parkins, 980-343-6000 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/thomasboroES>.
- Volunteer.
- Join the Thomasboro Academy PTA

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:

- Thomasboro Academy: <https://www.cmsk12.org/thomasboroES>
- Graduation requirements: [www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: [www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/)
- State student achievement test results: [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/)
- N.C. School Report Cards: <https://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards>

We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your students. Already, we have:

- THRIVE after-school tutoring program
- Kindergarten reading tutoring program
- Mentor groups with community partners
- Active MTSS Intervention Groups in Reading and Math

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Rolando Parkins at 980-343-6000.

Sincerely,

Rolando Parkins  
Principal