

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in McAlpine Elementary, I am writing this letter to let you know that McAlpine Elementary has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement-Consistently Underperforming (TSI-CU) 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-CU schools in North Carolina have student subgroup(s) that are consistently 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-CU school, McAlpine 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 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 goal for McAlpine Elementary this year:

- We will increase our student with disabilities subgroup performance grade from a F to a D or higher in 2024-25. (Aligned to A4.01, D1.02, and CMS Guardrail 1)

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 McAlpine Elementary will be implementing:

- Scheduling adjustments to support both push-in and pull-out service models.
- Positive reinforcement for meeting goals and having a growth mindset as a school.
- Focus on academic and social-emotional data to create targeted groups to meet students' needs.

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).
- Email Kristen McGuirk at [kristenm.mcguirk@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:kristenm.mcguirk@cms.k12.nc.us) 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 <https://www.cmsk12.org/mcalpinees>
- Volunteer.
- Join the McAlpine 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:

- 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://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:

- Continued our Multi-Tiered system of Support process to identify and intervene on any student with academic concerns.
- Strategically create small groups of students working with their teacher on specific targeted areas.
- Celebrate our students through the SOAR-TA Award, SOAR Tickets, and Behavior Incentive Assemblies.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Kristen McGuirk at [kristenm.mcguirk@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:kristenm.mcguirk@cms.k12.nc.us).

Sincerely,

Kristen McGuirk