

November 30, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in **Lawrence Orr Elementary**, I am writing this letter to let you know that **Lawrence Orr Elementary**, 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, **Lawrence Orr 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 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 **Lawrence Orr Elementary** this year:

- The percent of Black and Hispanic **3rd grade** students combined who score at the College and Career Ready (CCR) level -- a 4 or 5 -- in English Language Arts (**ELA**) will increase from 11.0% in October 2023 to 50.0%, by October 2024
- The percentage of Black 3rd grade students projected to be College and Career Ready (CCR) on the Winter administration of the of the Grade 3 ELA Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment will increase from its baseline in February 2022 to 45% in February 2024.
- The percentage of Hispanic 3rd grade students projected to be College and Career Ready (CCR) on the Winter administration of the Grade 3 ELA Measure of Academic Progress (MAP) assessment will increase from its baseline in February 2022 to 45% in February 2024.

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 **Lawrence Orr Elementary** will be implementing:

- Meaningful Instructional Planning
- Pace & Resource flexibility
- Strategic Pedagogy/ Instructional Design
- Lesson Internalization
- Intentional Student Engagement
- Evidence of Standards Mastery

- Rigorous & Relevant Assessments
- Timely Data Analysis & Response to Data
- In-class instructional support
- In-the-moment & 1-on-1 coaching

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 ***Lawrence Orr Front Office – 980-343-9919*** 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
 - Lawrence Orr Website: <https://www.cmsk12.org/lawrenceorrES>
 - Instagram Page: <https://www.instagram.com/lawrenceorrelem/>
- Volunteer.
- Join the ***Lawrence Orr 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:

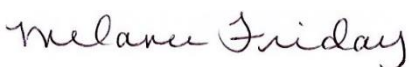
- ***Mrs. Gray - School Social Worker, Mrs. Baker and Mrs. Thomas-Williams - School Counselors - 980-343-9919***
- Graduation requirements: www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/
- State student achievement test results: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/
- N.C. School Report Cards: <https://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 student. Already, we have:

- Teachers and support staff consistently facilitate Social Emotional Learning lessons during SEL time.
- Weekly PLC meetings are targeted and focused on data driven, standard aligned instruction.
- Small group instruction is the central focus in order to close learning gaps.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Melanee Friday** at **melaneefriday@cms.k12.nc.us**, or **980-343-9919**

Sincerely,



Melanee Friday, Principal