



September 16, 2014

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Between September 29, 2014 and November 7, 2014, SchoolWorks – an education consulting company based in Beverly, Massachusetts – will be partnering with Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS) to conduct School Readiness Assessments at fourteen schools, including your child’s school.

The School Readiness Assessments (SRA) are being conducted as a component of the Beacon Initiative, in order to assist the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education with better serving and improving educational opportunities for children within CMS.

The process will place a team of experienced educators from SchoolWorks and team members from Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools in a school for two-and-a-half-days to collect and analyze data about school performance. The SRA will be used to provide formative feedback that a school can use to consider the effectiveness of its own practices, as well as serve as a catalyst for school and district improvement and action planning purposes.

The SRA utilizes multiple sources of evidence to understand how well a school is working. Evidence collection begins with the review of the key documents that describe the school and its students. These key documents, for example, include curricula and related teaching documents, professional development records, and student assessment results. This provides the team with initial information about the school’s programs and the students it serves. While on site, evidence collection continues through additional document reviews, classroom visits, and interviews with key school stakeholders. As part of this process, team members from SchoolWorks and CMS may observe a portion of your child’s class; some students may be selected at random to be interviewed by school visitors.

Should you have any questions or concerns about this process, please contact your child’s principal, or me by email at info@schoolworks.org with the subject line “School Readiness Assessments.”

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim Wechtenhiser", with a horizontal line above it.

Kim Wechtenhiser
President, SchoolWorks