



Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools

Every Child. Every Day. For a Better Tomorrow.

Lincoln Heights Academy

1900 Newcastle Street

Charlotte, NC 28216

**December 18th, 2018**

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in **Lincoln Heights Academy**, I am writing this letter to let you know that **Lincoln Heights Academy** has been designated as a Comprehensive Support & Improvement Low-Graduation Rate (CSI-LG) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(c)(4)(D)(i), North Carolina had to identify schools for comprehensive support and improvement. CSI-LG schools in North Carolina are high schools that have a 4-year cohort graduation rate of less than 66.7%. 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 CSI-LG school, **Lincoln Heights 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
- Standard-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 **Lincoln Heights Academy** this year:

- Through the implementation of the Positive Action program and the Boys Town Specialized Classroom Management system, Lincoln Heights Academy will have a safe and productive learning environment where students are engaged in learning and respond appropriately to redirection immediately, as measured by a decrease of 10% in referrals for disrespectful behavior.
- Students will utilize literacy strategies such as close reading, annotation of text, writing to learn, academic conversations, and other high yield instructional strategies to increase comprehension and fluency under the direct instruction and guidance of all teachers; which will be reflected in an increase in proficiency of at least 5 percentage points on local and state assessments and a growth of at least 15 percentage points on the MAP assessment for reading annually.



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- Through improving two-way communication between the home and school, implementation of supports for grade to grade and level to level transitions, and the use of Positive Action Family and Community Engagement kits chronic student absenteeism will decrease by 10% points.

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 *Lincoln Heights Academy* will be implementing:

- ALL teachers employ effective classroom management and reinforce classroom rules and procedures by positively teaching them.
- The school expects students to participate in activities to develop skills outside of the classroom (e.g., service learning, clubs, athletics, enrichment opportunities, internships).
- Instructional Teams develop standards-aligned units of instruction for each subject and grade level.
- The school implements a tiered instructional system that allows teachers to deliver evidence-based instruction aligned with the individual needs of students across all tiers.
- ALL teachers are attentive to students' emotional states, guide students in managing their emotions, and arrange for supports and interventions when necessary.
- The school develops and implements consistent, intentional, and ongoing plans to support student transitions for grade-to-grade and level-to-level.

Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways you can help:

- 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 **Susan Smith, 980-343-5415**, 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:
    - <http://schools.cms.k12.nc.us/lincolnheightsacademyEC>
    - Lincoln Heights Academy Facebook page
    - LHA Library @ Instagram
    - Parent Square: <https://www.parentsquare.com/>
- Volunteer

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:

- ***Laurice Patterson, Social Worker*** 980-343-5415
- 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:

- **PAC ( Parent Advisory Committee) - Please join our next PAC meeting: January 16th, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.**
- **5th Block Intervention/Enrichment Block**
- **Clubs**

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Melissa Manikkam-Melton** at [melissa.manikkam@cms.k12.nc.us](mailto:melissa.manikkam@cms.k12.nc.us) or **980-343-5415**.

Sincerely,

Katherine Willenbrock, Principal