



September 2021

Dear David Cox Families,

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

- Increase student proficiency in Math. Our current performance (based on 2018-2019 EOG Test scores as a result of Covid 19) is 44.5% (Grade Level Proficient) and 26.9% (College and Career Ready) as evidenced by the North Carolina EOG Test for grades 3-5.
- Increase student proficiency in Reading. Our current performance (based on 2018-2019 EOG Test scores as a result of Covid 19) is 34.1% (Grade Level Proficient) and 24.9% (College and Career Ready) as evidenced by the North Carolina EOG Test for grades 3-5.
- Increase student proficiency in Science. Our current performance (based on 2018-2019 EOG Test scores as a result of Covid 19) is 39.5% (Grade Level Proficient) and 30.6% (College and Career Ready) as evidenced by the North Carolina EOG Test for grades 3-5.
- Increase student proficiency in K-2 Reading as evidenced by the North Carolina Reading Benchmark.
- Provide duty-free instructional planning time for every teacher under G.S. 115C-105.27 and -301.1, with the goal of providing an average of at least five hours of planning time per week, to the maximum extent that the safety and proper supervision of students may allow during regular student contact hours.
- Provide a positive school climate, under CMS regulation JICK-R, by promoting a safe learning environment free of bullying and harassing behaviors. Increase number of teacher response data on Insight Survey to be

aligned with or better than the district average when responding to the statement "Across my school, there are consistent expectations and consequences for student behavior".

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 David Cox will be implementing:

- Continuing strong implementation of our Award Winning Positive Behavior Intervention and Support Systems recognized by the state of North Carolina.
- Strengthening the Core Instructional Program through strengthened Professional Learning Communities committed to ensuring alignment to the standards and strong rigor in every classroom for every subgroup.
- Professional Development and Coaching for teachers designed to improve their practice.

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 during this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your child's teacher(s).
- Call David Cox Road ES if you have any questions or concerns about your students or to set up an appointment.
- Make sure 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.
- Volunteer
- Get involved in the David Cox 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:

- Contact our School Leadership Team or your students' teacher for support.
- 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 Card- <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:

- Implemented new electronic resources to support student learning at school.
- We will hire a tutor to help support instructional goals.
- Provided teachers with a wealth of additional planning time to design excellent lessons.
- Maintained a strong student culture through our Dynamite Dolphins Positive Behavior System.
- Developed strong Professional Learning Communities whose focus is a stronger instructional core for all students.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Principal Ellis at c.ellis@cms.k12.nc.us or 980-343-6540.

Sincerely,

Celeste Spears-Ellis, Principal



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