



## West Marion Elementary

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December 21, 2018

Dear Parents of West Marion Elementary

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

- A2.05 ALL teachers will develop weekly lesson plan based on aligned units of instruction.
- A3.02 Instructional Teams will track and maintain records of student learning data to determine progress toward meeting goals as indicated in students' IEPs.

- A4.01 The school will implement a tiered instructional system that allows teachers to deliver evidence-based instruction aligned with the individual needs of students across all tiers.
- A4.06 ALL teachers will be attentive to students' emotional states, guide students in managing their emotions, and arrange for supports and interventions when necessary. (5124)
- A4.16 The school will develop and implement consistent, intentional, and on-going plans to support student transitions for grade to grade-to- grade and level-to-level.
- B1.03 A Leadership Team consisting of the principal, teachers who lead the Instructional Teams, and other professional staff meets regularly (at least twice a month) to review implementation of effective practices.
- B3.03 The principal monitors curriculum and classroom instruction regularly and provides timely, clear, constructive feedback to teachers.
- C2.01 The LEA/School regularly looks at school performance data and aggregated classroom observation data and uses that data to make decisions about school improvement and professional development needs.
- C3.04 The LEA/School has established a system of procedures and protocols for recruiting, evaluating, rewarding, and replacing staff.
- E1.06 The school will regularly communicate with parents/guardians about its expectations of them and the importance of the curriculum of the home (what parents can do at home to support their children's learning).
- E2.04 The school will consistently engage in strategies, policies, and procedures for partnering with local businesses, community organizations, and other agencies to meet the needs of the school.

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 West Marion Elementary School will be implementing:

- Ready Rosie for Parent Engagement
- Teachers meet weekly to look at reading and math data and plan instruction
- Exceptional Children's teachers meet monthly to look at data to guide instruction
- Support teachers push in to classrooms to assist in reading and math instruction
- Sharing grade level standards weekly with specials and support staff so they can support classroom instruction
- Teachers "Looping" with their class

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 Mr. Carson at 738-3353 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 [www.wme.mcdowell.k12.nc.us](http://www.wme.mcdowell.k12.nc.us)
- Volunteer.
- Join the West Marion Elementary 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:

- McDowell County Schools [www.mcdowell.k12.nc.us](http://www.mcdowell.k12.nc.us)
- West Marion Elementary [www.wme.mcdowell.k12.nc.us](http://www.wme.mcdowell.k12.nc.us)
- West Marion Facebook Page
- Follow West Marion on Twitter
- 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:

- Ready Rosie (You should be signed up and receiving weekly videos. If not contact the school for information on participating.)

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Nakia Carson at 828-738-3353 or [nakia.carson@mcdowell.k12.nc.us](mailto:nakia.carson@mcdowell.k12.nc.us)**

Sincerely,

Nakia Carson