

Sycamore Lane Elementary School
2100 Sycamore Lane Laurinburg, North Carolina 28352
(910) 277-4350

November 4, 2022

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student at Sycamore Lane Elementary, I am writing this letter to let you know that Sycamore Lane Elementary, has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school and has been designated as a low-performing 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. As defined in G.S. 115C-105.37: "The State Board of Education shall identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a school growth score of "met expected growth" or "not met expected growth" as defined by G.S. 115C-83.15." The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly provides parents with an additional measure of school performance in the form of School Performance Grades. Beginning with the 2013–14 school year, the annual North Carolina School Report Cards display a letter grade of A, B, C, D, or F for each school in the state.

The School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At *Sycamore Lane Elementary* our achievement score for the 2021-2022 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grades 3–8 Mathematics, Grades 3–8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grades 5 and 8 Science.

Sycamore Lane Elementary received a School Performance Grade of F and a growth designation of Did Not Meet for the 2021–2022 school year. Although we are committed to improving this score, it is important to remember that just as no one single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about the performance of a school or the opportunities that our school provides. At Sycamore Lane Elementary students are given the opportunity to participate in the arts (i.e., music, art class), STEAM as well as after school activities.

As a TSI-AT school and as a school designated as NC low-performing, Sycamore Lane 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 Sycamore Lane Elementary this year:

- Sycamore Lane Elementary will increase student math and ELA proficiency by 30% by the end of the 2022-2023 school year;
- Sycamore Lane Elementary will increase parent involvement by 10% by the end of the 2022-2023 school year;
- Sycamore Lane Elementary will decrease office discipline referrals by 10%; and
- Sycamore Lane Elementary will increase our Rhythm Tempo score by 10%.

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, but it will require hard work on the part of staff, students, and families. Strategies we are implementing include high dosage tutoring, small group interventions, and MTSS interventions.

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).
- Make sure that your student is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your student's progress and homework.
- Keep track of our website and social media sites <https://www.scotland.k12.nc.us/Domain/18> and <https://www.facebook.com/SycamoreLaneElementarySchool>.
- Volunteer.
- Join the Sycamore Lane Parent Teacher Organization.

Sounds like a lot but preparing our students so they can succeed is not easy and is a group effort. Here are some resources available to help:

- 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 our students. Already, we have:

- Held a Literacy Night where parents and students participated in learning about our new curriculum, played literacy games, and attended a parent academy session.
- Obtained a \$3,000 grant to add nonfiction and diverse titles into our media center.
- Completed first quarter benchmarks to help us data dive into our areas of improvement based on individual student scores.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact **Kachina Singletary** at **kquick@scsnc.org** or **910-277-4350**.

Sincerely,


Kachina Quick-Singletary, Principal