



# ECU<sup>®</sup>

## COMMUNITY SCHOOL

November 27, 2018

Dear ECUCS Families,

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in the East Carolina University Community School (ECUCS), I am writing this letter to let you know that ECUCS has been designated as a Comprehensive Support & Improvement Low-Performing (CSI-LP) 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-LP schools in North Carolina are those found in the lowest-performing 5 percent of all schools receiving Title I funding. 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-LP school, ECUCS 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 East Carolina University Community School this year:

- Increase student proficiency on state end of grade tests in reading by 10% and math by 10% at the end of the school year.
- Decrease student suspensions by 25% by the end of the school year.

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 will be implementing:

- Planning high-quality learning experiences based upon state standards with support from East Carolina University Faculty members
- Administering quarterly benchmark assessments to monitor student performance
- Adjusting classroom instruction based on the assessment results to strengthen areas in which students need improvement

- Conducting periodic parent conferences and family engagement activities in which information regarding state standards and student progress are shared

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 our school at (252) 737-5600 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://www.ecu.edu/cs-educ/labschool/what.cfm>.
  - <https://www.facebook.com/ECUCommunitySchool/>
- Volunteer.

This may sound 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:

- 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:

- Established a school-wide behavior expectation plan
- Administered mid-nine weeks progress assessments and quarterly benchmark tests to assess areas in which are students perform well and areas in which they need additional support.
- Participated in collaborative student events with South Greenville Elementary, such as attending programs like The Mystery of the Lost Colony and Sound Adventures.
- Partnered with various East Carolina University Departments to support students physical and social/emotional health. Some of these departments include, but are not limited to, the Dental School, the College of Nursing, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Recreational Therapy.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Tracy L. Cole at [colet18@ecu.edu](mailto:colet18@ecu.edu) or (252) 737-5600.

Sincerely,



Tracy L. Cole  
Principal