

# AYDEN MIDDLE SCHOOL

192 Third Street  
Ayden, NC 28513



**"Home of the Knights"**

**Principal**  
**Marieka Harrison**  
**Phone 252-746-3672**

**Assistant Principal**  
**Patrick Egan**  
**Fax 252-746-9923**

November 12, 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I am writing this letter to notify you that Ayden Middle School has been dually designated as both a North Carolina Low-Performing school and a federally identified Targeted Support and Improvement. Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. 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." Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long North Carolina General Assembly session 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. School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At Ayden Middle School, our achievement score for the 2023-2024 school year is based on how well our students performed on: Grades 6–8 Mathematics, Grades 6–8 English Language Arts/Reading, 8 Science, NC Math 1, and additional indicators including English Learner Progress. Ayden Middle School received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of Met Growth for the 2024–2025 school year.

In addition, per the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) Section 1111(d)(2), schools receive the federal identification of TSI-AT in North Carolina by having one or more of the following subgroups receive a subgroup performance grade score at or below the lowest 5% of schools across the state during the 2022-2023 academic year; and being identified as a consistently underperforming subgroup for the previous year. Subgroup performance scores are provided for the following subgroups of students: (1) Students with Disabilities, (2) Economically Disadvantaged, (3) Black, (4) White, (5) Hispanic, (6) Asian-Pacific Islander, (7) Multi-racial, and (8) English Learners. As a dually designated TSI-AT and NC low-performing school, Ayden Middle School is required to develop a comprehensive improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement. The plan will also include strategies that our district will employ to support Ayden Middle School's improvement efforts. The comprehensive improvement 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 Insert name of the school this year:

- →Ayden Middle School will increase overall proficiency by 5 percentage points, as evidenced by implementation of the following high yield instructional strategies from the Learning Focused Instructional Framework: Collaborative Pairs, Higher Order Thinking Skills, and Vocabulary Instruction.

Here are some strategies that Ayden Middle School will be implementing to improve student outcomes: Collaborative Pairs, Higher Order Thinking Skills, and Vocabulary Instruction

- →Ayden Middle School, will decrease the number of discipline referrals that result in a loss of instructional time (e.g., out-of-school suspension, in-school suspension, or class removals) by 20% from the 2024-2025 baseline.
- →Ayden Middle School will increase average parent attendance at family night events from 20 to 35 parents per event.

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

- Ensure you and your child know the academic expectations for your child this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your child's teacher(s).
- Call Ms. Harrison at 252-746-3672 if you have questions or concerns about your child. To set up an appointment to meet with a school staff member who is working with your child, call or dojo your child's teacher.
- Make sure that your child is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your child's homework.
- Monitor the progress your child is making and attend meetings with your child's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website and social media sites <https://www.pitt.k12.nc.us/ams>
- Volunteer.
- Join the Ayden Middle PTO

Additionally, listed below are a few 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://www.dpi.nc.gov/data-reports/school-report-cards>

We are committed to improving student performance. 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. The intent of receiving these designations is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your child. Already, we have:

- Began Remediation Groups, worked with teachers to begin our (Intervention) time each day from 10-10:40, and participated in a wildly successful One Book, One School Event.
- TSA, Battle of the Books, Science Olympiad, FCA, SGA,

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Ms. Harrison at 252-746-3672.

Sincerely,

Ms. Harrison