# South Edgecombe Middle School

**Edgecombe County Public Schools**

Billy Strother, Principal  Jumela Evans, Assistant Principal

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November 20, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I hope the school year is off to a successful start for you and your child. I am writing this letter to let you know that *South Edgecombe Middle School* has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. Per ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), schools are identified as TSI-AT schools in North Carolina because one or more of the following subgroups received a subgroup performance grade score at or below the highest identified CSI-LP school's All Students group during the identification year; and is on the TSI-CU list for the subgroup(s) for the previous year. Subgroup performance scores are provided for the following subgroups: (1) Students with Disabilities, (2) Economically Disadvantaged, (3) Black, (4) White, (5) Hispanic, (6) Asian-Pacific Islander, (7) Multi-racial, and (8) English Learners. This letter is to notify our parents and guardians of *South Edgecombe Middle School's* intentions to improve educational outcomes for underperforming student subgroups and close achievement gaps for all students.

As a TSI-AT (ATSI) school, *South Edgecombe Middle School* is required to develop an Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve outcomes for underperforming subgroups. The plan will also include strategies that our district or charter will employ to support *South Edgecombe Middle School's* improvement efforts. The ATSI 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 *South Edgecombe Middle School* this year:

- *By June 2025, the percentage of students who are proficient in reading, math, and 8th grade science will increase by 10 percentage points.*
- *By June 2025, we will exceed growth as measured by EVAAS growth standards.*
- *By June 2025, we will meet or exceed student performance goals for our target subgroups (Black, SWD).*
- *By June 2025, South Edgecombe Middle School will improve the student attendance percentage to 95%.*

Also, parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways we can work together:

- Ensure that both you and your child know the academic expectations set for your child this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your student's teacher(s).
- Call *Mr. Strother at (252) 827-5083* 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 child.
- 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).

***Open Hearts. Open Minds. Open Doors.***

***GO DRAGONS!***

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- Keep track of our website and social media sites.
- Volunteer.

Additionally, listed below are a few 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://ncreportcards.ondemand.sas.com/src

We are committed to improving student performance. It is important to remember that just as no single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about a school's performance 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:

- Implementation of a new core curriculum for ELA (StudySync) and Math (Reveal).
- Continued use of iReady for Math and ELA to provide individualized instruction in an effort to close learning gaps.
- Academic intervention and enrichment during Academic Support and core classes.
- Social Emotional Learning (SEL) support in Academic Support and Leadership classes.
- Ongoing professional development for staff on high impact instructional strategies.
- After school tutoring in tested subjects during the second semester.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact me at bstrother@ecps.us or (252) 827-5083.

Sincerely,

*Mr. Billy Strother*

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***GO DRAGONS!***