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Dear Bulldog Parent/Guardian:

October 14, 2025

I am writing to inform you that Cedar Grove Middle School has been designated by the North Carolina State Board of Education as both a North Carolina Low-Performing School and a federally identified Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) School. According to G.S. 115C-105.37, low performing schools are those that earn an overall school performance grade of D or F and a growth score of “met expected growth” or “not met expected growth,” as defined by G.S. 115C- 83.15.

Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, the NC General Assembly required that schools receive an annual School Performance Grade (A-F) based on the following:

- 80% achievement (student proficiency)
- 20% growth (academic progress)

For the 2024-2025 school year, Cedar Grove Middle received a school performance grade of D and a growth designation of Did Not Meet.

In addition, under the Federal Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA), our school was identified as TSI-AT because one or more student subgroups performed at or below the lowest 5% of schools across the state. Subgroup performance is measured for the following subgroups:

- Economically disadvantaged students
- Black, White, Hispanic, Asian- Pacific Islander, Multiracial Students
- English Learners

As a designated TSI-AT and NC Low Performing school, Cedar Grove Middle 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 and Retention of Effective Teachers
- Support for Grade-to-Grade Transition
- Implementation of a Tiered Instructional System
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Support Services
- Family and Community Engagement

We have set the following goals for Cedar Grove Middle School this year:

- Increase the average daily attendance by 5% (Aligned to NC SBE Goal 1: Eliminate opportunity gaps by 2027)
 - Attendance Committee Meetings for Students At-Risk for Non-Compliant Attendance
- Decrease student discipline referrals by 5% (Aligned to NC SBE Goal 1: Eliminate opportunity gaps by 2027)
 - School-wide common procedures and language
- Increase Parent/Family Engagement (Aligned to NC SBE Goal 1: Eliminate opportunity gaps by 2027)
 - Increase opportunities and communication for families to interact with the school
- Increase student performance in the areas of Reading, Math, and Science (Aligned to NC SBE Goal 2, Improve School and District Performance by 2027)

- ELA Arts and Letters Curriculum
- iReady Math Curriculum
- Stile Curriculum
- Improve teacher capacity through Professional Development (Aligned to NC SBE Goal 3: Increase educator preparedness)
 - High quality and intentional professional development opportunities
- Budget Transparency and Staff Voice in Decision-Making (Aligns to ATSI Needs Assessment)
 - Collaborative and shared leadership in improvement planning

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 Cedar Grove Middle School will be implementing:

- All teachers have implemented research- based curriculums in both Reading and Math. School-wide daily intervention time is incorporated into the Master Schedule, which reinforces core instruction and bridges gaps in learning.
- The use of our Math Interventionist as an elective period across all grade levels allows us to focus on math more specifically through the use of individualized instruction and with the help of the Math180 program.
- The continued focus on rigor and relevance throughout the school to increase student proficiency.
- The PBIS team has revised and implemented new procedures to help reinforce positive behaviors at school.
- The MTSS team and SLT team will continue to identify areas of need for students and address them as needed.

Parent Engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways that we can work together to ensure the success of our students at Cedar Grove Middle School:

- Be aware of academic expectations set for your student this year. A list of learning objectives is available from your student's teachers.
- Call Cedar Grove Middle School if you have questions or concerns about your student, or to set up an appointment to meet with their teacher, teacher team, or school staff member that works with your student.
- Make sure your student attends school each day and arrives prepared for school.
- Monitor your student's grades and progress through the use of Parent Portal. Access can be gained through our Data Manager, Keishonna Hewett, or someone in the front office.
- Keep track of our website, www.bcswan.net/CGMS , our Sunday Messages and school emails, and our school Facebook page to stay up-to-date on all things Cedar Grove Middle School.
- Join the CGMS PTA. Information can be found on the school website and the Cedar Grove Middle PTA on Facebook.
- Review the Parent Portal in Infinite Campus frequently to stay updated on student grades.
- Connect to your child's teachers using Class Dojo to stay updated on current events in the classroom.

This is a great deal of information, but preparing our students so they can succeed is not easy and is a group effort. Here are some resources available to help:

- K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum
- State student achievement test results: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability

We are excited about this school year and we are working to make it a success for your student. Already, we have:

- Restructured our school-wide, research-based intervention block specific to each student's needs in order to grow our students in reading, math, and other content-specific areas.
- Endeavored to increase our daily attendance rate as compared to our previous years data.
- Reinforced continuity with a positive school culture through the consistent use of PBIS best-practices.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Principal Sharon Herring (shherring@bcswan.net) at 910-756-6120.

Sincerely,

Sharon Herring, Principal
Cedar Grove Middle School