



October 30, 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian:

As a parent/guardian of a student at **Ignite Online Academy (K-12)**, I am writing this letter to let you know that Ignite has been designated as a **Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT)** 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 underperforming. 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. 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 TSI-AT school, **Ignite Online Academy** 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 **Ignite Online Academy** this year:

- By June 2026, Ignite Online Academy will increase overall Grade Level Proficiency (GLP) from 35% to 50%. This overall composite will be achieved by increasing proficiency levels in the following tested areas:
 - *3rd-8th Grade Math from 18.1% to 50.7%*
 - *3rd-8th Grade Reading from 32.1% to 63.2%*
 - *5th Grade Science from 42.9% to 50.0%*
 - *8th Grade Science from 33.3% to 56.4%*
 - *HS Math 1 from 0% to 35.5%*
 - *HS Math 3 from 14.3% to 44.9%*
 - *HS Biology from 5.9% to 15.1%*

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 **Ignite Online Academy** will be implementing:

Strengthening Teaching & Learning

- Implement a consistent weekly Professional Learning Community (PLC) system where teachers meet twice weekly to review standards, plan instruction, and analyze student data.

- Use common data protocols and guiding questions in PLCs to monitor student understanding, adjust instruction, and plan targeted support.
- Provide protected planning time for teachers to unpack standards, review assessments, and plan effective lessons.
- Conduct regular classroom walkthroughs and provide coaching to ensure strong, standards-aligned instruction across all grade levels.

Expanding Student Support

- Offer targeted academic support, including required Math 1 office hours beginning Semester 2.
- Strengthen intervention and enrichment through data-informed planning and tiered supports.

Professional Learning & Coaching

- Provide differentiated professional development options for staff based on needs and teacher feedback (technology integration, explicit teaching strategies, assessment practices, equity, EC/504 support, etc.).
- Offer multiple learning formats (live sessions, peer learning walks, coaching cycles, and recorded modules) so educators can apply new strategies effectively.
- Align PD directly to schoolwide academic and SEL goals and encourage teacher choice in areas of professional growth.

Focused School Leadership & Accountability

- School administrators attend PLCs weekly, review PLC plans and student data, and provide feedback to teacher teams.
- The Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) reviews lesson plans, PLC minutes, and student work monthly to monitor progress and provide support.
- Leadership team members apply training from district PD, reflect on implementation progress, and share key practices with staff to strengthen schoolwide systems.

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 student are aware of the **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 **Ignite Online Academy** 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. **Attendance is paramount** to student academic outcomes. They can't learn if they aren't here.
- **Monitor** your student's personalized playlist and weekly work plans. Everything is laid out very clearly for students and learning coaches.
- **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
 - <https://www.dpsnc.net/o/igniteacademy>
 - <https://www.facebook.com/IgniteOnlineAcademy/>
- **Volunteer!** Join the IOA PTSA @ <https://igniteonlineacademyptsa.givebacks.com/shop>

Sounds 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:

- K-8 School Counselor - Christie Rochefort (christie_rochefort@dpsnc.net)
- 9-12 School Counselor - Shara Settle (shara_settle@dpsnc.net)
- School Social Worker - Rita Rakestraw (rita_rakestraw@dpsnc.net)
- 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 your student. Already, we have:

- Engaged students with in-person learning & socialization experiences this year!!
- Plans for at least 2 school-wide engagement events to bring our school community together
- Increased zoom and live instruction, including additional tutoring time for middle and high school students!
- Been consistently encouraging families to connect to the Infinite Campus parent portal and the Rooms app to support two-way communication and engagement!

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Principal Crystal Medlin
(crystal_medlin@dpsnc.net)

Sincerely,

Crystal B. Medlin

Crystal B. Medlin
Principal, Ignite Online Academy