

HAWK EYE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Heather D. Brower
Principal

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October 30, 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Legislation (G.S. §115C-83.15) passed during the 2013 long session of the North Carolina General Assembly 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.

The School Performance Grades are based 80 percent on our school's achievement score (student proficiency) and 20 percent on students' academic growth. At Hawk Eye Elementary School,, our achievement score for the 2022-2023 school year is based on how well our students performed on Grades 3–8 Mathematics, Grades 3–8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grades 5 Science, and additional indicators including English Learner Progress.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Hawk Eye Elementary School has been designated as a low performing 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."

Hawk Eye Elementary School received a School Performance Grade of D and a growth designation of Met Growth for the 2022–2023 school year. Although we are committed to improving this score, 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.

As a low performing school, we are required to develop an improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve both the school performance grade and school growth score. The plan will also include how the superintendent and other central office administrators in the district will work with us and monitor the progress of our school. We have already engaged in the work of refining our plan and have presented the plan to our school board on Sept. 28th where the plan was presented for approval. The final plan will be available for review on our school website at <https://www.hcs.k12.nc.us/hees>.

One of our top priorities for 2023–2024 is to improve our School Performance Grade. There are a number of key programs we have in place to help improve student performance. These include:

- **Increasing the number of students in all subgroups who are proficient and/or college and career reading on state level assessments.** Teachers will implement a strong core education which will ensure that all students are taught at the appropriate level of rigor as identified by NC state standards. Small group instruction will take place regularly to ensure that students' individual needs are met. Students that require more intensive support will receive it through the support of our EC and ESL department along with tutoring services.

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- **Ensuring that all of our students have a conducive learning environment where the highest levels of learning can take place** - Students will receive instruction in Social and Emotional learning. Our school counselor and school social worker, along with other support personnel, will conduct small groups in which they can meet with identified students. We will celebrate our diverse student population by hosting school wide cultural celebrations throughout the school year.
- **Providing increased learning opportunities for our students through the use of blended learning methods** As a one-to-one school system, all students have access to an electronic device. Teaching strategies will include a blend of online and offline activities. Our teaching staff will continue to receive professional development in the area of blended learning with support from our Digital Instructional Facilitator. .
- **Hiring highly qualified individuals and providing opportunities for their continued professional growth** Beginning teachers will be provided a mentor to support their professional needs. The academic coach will be available to provide an added layer of support for classroom teachers. School Administration will visit classrooms regularly to provide feedback to improve instruction.
- **Increasing opportunities for parent communication and community engagement.** Parents and families will have opportunities to communicate with administration and teachers through various school-wide events. Families will receive information through twice monthly phone calls and Class Dojo, and our social media site will be updated three or more times each week. Parents will also be encouraged to sign up for the PowerSchool parent portal to receive timely information regarding student progress.

We hope you will closely follow your student's academic progress and work with his or her teacher(s) to help ensure they stay on track academically. Working together as a team, we can improve not only how well our students are performing individually, but how our school is performing as a whole. There is nothing more important to administrators and teachers at Hawk Eye Elementary than ensuring students are ready for the next step in their academic careers. I look forward to working with you to make sure your student is on track for success.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding our School Performance Grade and how we plan to improve, please don't hesitate to contact Mrs. Heather Brower at (910) 875-2470 ext. 312 or via email at hbrower@hcs.k12.nc.us

Sincerely,

Heather D. Brower
Principal