



Caswell County Schools

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Dr. Douglas Barker, Superintendent

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Dear Parents and Families of Caswell County Schools:

2022-2023 School Performance Grades were released on September 6, 2023 from the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) for public schools across North Carolina. North Carolina's accountability model continues to provide information on both academic growth rates and student proficiency percentages of students on state assessments. State Superintendent of Public Instruction Catherine Truitt continues to be vocal in support of a different accountability model and changing testing, by stating, "We need to redefine school accountability and rethink what student testing looks like," which was expressed in recent testimony before the House Select Committee on An Education System for North Carolina's Future.

The School Performance Grades include CCSs' 4-year Cohort Graduation Rate, ACT Scores, ACT WorkKeys scores, as well as student proficiency levels and student growth scores for End-of-Grade Tests/End-of-Course Tests. The state uses the growth formula of 80% proficiency and 20% growth. The formula dictates that all students, regardless of educational histories or challenges, will count 80% for their academic achievement. The 20% growth is how much a student's academic knowledge grows in comparison to other students across the state who are taking the same assessment. NCDPI data points show that overall Caswell County Schools grew student mastery of knowledge (growth and exceeded growth); kept students in school (low dropout rate); and graduated students with college and career ready skills (Graduation Rate and WorkKeys). The information below provides a summary of the growth of each of Caswell County's six public schools.

Elementary:

At Oakwood Elementary School, students' scores also reflected growth; however, Oakwood has been designated as a low performing school. Overall grade level proficiency in math increased by 7.2 percentage points. Oakwood's overall school performance grade is D, with a school performance score of 45. In reading and math all students met growth and all subgroups met growth. Overall, Oakwood Elementary School met expected growth for the 2022-2023 school year. Oakwood is a low performing school.

At North Elementary School, student scores did not reflect growth for the 2022-2023 school year. North did not meet growth. North Elementary School's overall school performance grade is D, with a school performance score of 46. Reading and math did not meet growth; students with disabilities met growth. North moved to a low performing school.

At South Elementary School, students' scores reflected growth; however, South has been designated as a low performing school. South's overall school performance grade is D, with a school performance score of 46 from 44, which shows 2 points increase in the score. In reading and math all students met growth and all subgroups met growth. Overall, South Elementary School met expected growth for the 2022-2023 school year.

At Stoney Creek Elementary School, student scores reflected growth; however, Stoney Creek has been designated as a low performing school. Stoney Creek's overall school performance grade is D, with a school performance score of 50 from 41, which is a 9 point increase in the score. In reading and math students met growth, and all subgroups except for one subgroup met growth. Overall, Stoney Creek Elementary School met expected growth for the 2022-2023 school year.

Middle:

N.L. Dillard exceeded expected growth for the 2022-2023 school year. Therefore, N.L. Dillard Middle School is no longer a low performing school. When examining growth data by individual grade levels, 7th grade math exceeded growth. Eighth grade science exceeded growth. N.L. Dillard Middle School's overall school performance grade is D, with a school performance score of 48 from 45, with a 3 point increase in the score. Overall, math and reading scores increased.

BYSHS student scores reflect growth; however, BYSHS has been designated as a low performing school BYSHS overall school performance grade is a D, with a school performance score of 51 from 48 which is a 3 point increase in the score. Grade level proficiency increased in math III by 24.2 percentage points. Biology increased by 4.5 percentage points, and math I increased by 6.5 percentage points. The graduation rate improved from 83.1% to 83.2%. Dropout rate is lower than the state average of 1.29%. BYSHS now has 42 students entering the Associates Pathway Program, which is up from 4 students.

Based on this data and even though we have some areas of improvement, Caswell County Schools has been designated as a low performing district by the North Carolina State Board of Education due to five of six schools being designated as low performing schools. Based upon the state formula of 80% proficient and 20% growth. As defined in *G.S. 115C-105.37*: “The State Board of Education shall design and implement a procedure to identify low-performing schools on an annual basis. Low-performing schools are those that receive a 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*.” Additionally, the new law, *G.S. 115C-105.39A* states, “A low-performing local school administrative unit is a unit in which the majority of the schools in that unit received a school performance grade and school growth score as provided in *G.S. 115C-83.15* have been identified as low-performing schools, as provided in *G.S. 115C-105.37*.” As a low performing district, we are required to develop an improvement plan that specifically addresses how the district will improve both the school performance grade and school growth score of each low-performing school in the district. The plan will also include how the superintendent and other central office administrators will work with each low-performing school and monitor the low-performing school's progress. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), North Carolina had to identify schools for targeted support and improvement. Bartlett Yancey Senior High School as a Targeted Support & Improvement School and N.L.Dillard has been labeled as a Targeted Support & Improvement School and Additional Targeted Support schools by the North Carolina State Board of Education. TSI-AT schools in North Carolina are those that have a subgroup that is under-performing. The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

We invite you as parents and community stakeholders to provide feedback on our preliminary district improvement plan, which is on our district website, www.caswell.k12.nc.us, under the Curriculum and Instruction Department tab. Please review the plan at your convenience, and provide written feedback on the plan to me no later than Friday, November 3rd, 2023. Principals will share the written feedback with the district office.

After considering feedback from parents and community stakeholders, and after the initial presentation to our Board of Education on October 23rd, 2023, we will submit the plan to the State Board of Education for review. The State Board's designees, staff members of NCDPI's Regional and District Support Division, will read each plan and provide feedback to the district. After considering the feedback from the state, our local Board of Education will give final approval to the plan so that the final plan for improvement can be posted on our local district website, www.caswell.k12.nc.us, as well as the NCDPI's website (www.ncpublicschools.org).

Our district is focused on continuous improvement, and we look forward to working with each of you as we continue to focus on providing the best education for our children.

Sincerely,

Dr. Douglas Barker, Superintendent