



John. W. Dillard Academy
810 Cure Drive
Madison, NC 27025
Principal, Dr. Star Norton



September 22nd, 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 Dillard Academy, 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, and additional indicators including English Learner Progress.*

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that Dillard Academy 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."

Dillard Academy received a School Performance Grade of *D* and a growth designation of *Met* 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. At Dillard Academy we host a morning walking club from 7:00 - 7:30 as well as a variety of after school activities (in combination with community partners) that include: drums, chorus, Lego Club, Good News Club, Battle of the Books, and a before/after school daycare program.

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 are already engaged in the work of refining our plan and will present the plan to our school board at their next meeting, on October 9th, 2023, where the plan will be presented for approval. The final plan will be available for review on our school's website (<https://www.jwdillardacademy.org/>).

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:

- Attendance: For the 2023-2024 academic school year, our chronic absenteeism rate will

decrease from 31% (30.67%) to 29% or less. School-wide we have increased communication about student absences and are awarding additional attendance initiatives for all students.

- Reading and Math: During the 2023-2024 and 2024-2025 school years, we will implement consistent practices that will reduce the percentage of non-proficient students in Reading and Math as measured by the North Carolina End of Grade Assessment. At Dillard Academy, we provide collaborative planning time to focus on implementation, instructional delivery, and progress monitoring. We will also focus on promoting alignment to the standards through weekly instructional feedback and the evaluation of student learning from formative and summative assessments.

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 Dillard Academy 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 Dillard Academy at (336) 548-2472.

Sincerely,

Dr. Star Norton

Dr. Star Norton, Dillard Academy