



1333 Forest Park Dr,
Kannapolis, NC 28083

October 2022

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 **Forest Park Elementary School** our achievement score for the 2021-2022 school year is based on how well our students performed on End of Grade assessments for Grades 3–8 Mathematics, Grades 3–8 English Language Arts/Reading, Grades 5 Science, and additional indicators including English Learner Progress and participation.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that **Forest Park Elementary School** has been designated as a “low performing” school and Kannapolis City Schools has been designated as a “low performing” district by the North Carolina State Board of Education. A district with the “low performing” designation is one in which the majority of the schools in the district carry the “low performing” designation. The State Board of Education has found that 75% of schools in Kannapolis City Schools have been identified as having the “low performing” designation.

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.”

Forest Park Elementary School received a School Performance Grade of **D** and a growth designation of **Met** for the 2021–2022 school year. Although we are committed to improving these scores, 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. Forest Park is committed to educating every child in a way that best meets their learning needs. Forest Park takes a whole child approach to learning that focuses on rich academics and social, emotional, and physical development.

One of our top priorities for 2022–2023 is to improve the School Performance Grade in each school. There are a number of key programs we have in place to help improve student performance. These include:

- Bolstering our support for classroom instruction
 - Teachers are participating in in-depth Science of Reading training.
 - Adoption of new research based curriculum and materials.
 - Instruction is focused and aligned to core standards.
 - Students are provided with direct instruction and differentiated opportunities to meet the needs of students.
- Ensuring our assessment system is balanced to inform how and what we teach.
 - Data is analyzed to ensure instruction is meeting the needs of students.
 - Data is used to plan instruction that promotes the growth of all students.
- Revisiting core behavior to ensure student success.
 - School-wide positive behavior supports and incentives are being use.
 - Social and emotional learning lessons are taught each day in Morning Meetings.
 - Zones of Regulation are taught and used school-wide.
 - Teachers are trained in Restorative and Reconnect strategies.
- Prioritizing student growth and development.
 - The Bear Den is used to promote healthy movement and child development.
 - Health and wellness initiative in collaboration with the Cabarrus Health Alliance.



- o Bear Trail and structured movement provides opportunities for students to build strength and resilience.

As a district with the “low performing” designation, 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 school in the unit, and how the superintendent and other central office administrators will work with each school and monitor schools’ progress with the “low-performing” designation. The preliminary plan was presented to our local school board at their last meeting, October 10, 2022, where the plan was presented for review and feedback. The final plan for improvement will be available on our local district website at www.kcs.k12.nc.us following board approval during the November 7, 2022 board meeting.

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 schools are performing as a whole. There is nothing more important to administrators and teachers at **Forest Park Elementary School** than ensuring students are ready for the next step in their academic careers. We 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 the schools within our district, please don’t hesitate to contact Martha Motley, the Principal at Forest Park Elementary School at (704) 932-8121 or martha.motley@kcs.k12.nc.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Garay', written in a cursive style.

Kevin Garay, Superintendent
Kannapolis City Schools