

Dear Atkinson Family,

December 5, 2017

Once a year, the state of North Carolina provides you with updates on your school's achievements through the North Carolina School Report Card. This document includes important information about school and student performance, class sizes, attendance, school safety, instructional resources, and teacher quality. Information about how our school measured against federal Annual Measurable Objectives (AMO) targets is also outlined. The N.C. General Assembly requires that schools receive individual letter grades, which are comprised of student achievement (80 percent) and growth (20 percent) on state standardized assessments. Available on our school's website is a summary of our Report Card called the Report Card Snapshot. Our school's full Report Card can be found on the NC School Report Card website at <http://www.ncreportcards.org>.

Atkinson Elementary exceeded N.C. Department of Public Instruction's growth expectations for the 2016-2017 school year, and met all 9 of our federally defined Annual Measurable Objective target goals. Over the past two years, our school performance grade has improved by 8 percentage points, with a 2016-17 score of 84 percent – only 1 percent point shy of being recognized as an "A" school. Our students' proficiency in Reading improved by 6 percentage points, and proficiency in Math increased 7 percentage points 2014-15. Our success is attributed to our students, families, staff, and community for their strong and consistent focus and support.

The numbers only tell part of the story. Atkinson Elementary is regarded as having high expectations, experienced staff, resources, and purpose from analyzing AdvancED stakeholder feedback from students, parents, and staff. Our staff strives to practice and instill lifelong character traits through our participation in the state's Positive Behavior Intervention & Support (PBIS) initiative. We continue to upgrade and purchase digital devices and software/apps that engage our students while implementing researched-based practices. We continue to increase learning opportunities beyond the typical classroom setting through activities such as ATK Heritage Day, Muddy Sneakers, Kiwanis Spelling Bee, Battle of the Books, student music performances, professional productions at Flat Rock Playhouse, and other opportunities in the community.

As we move forward, our attention is clearly focused on this year's opportunities. Our teachers are constantly improving instructional methods embedded in their guided reading and guided math activities, using feedback from collaboration and professional development at the school and district levels. Our K-2 teachers are all using Letterland to teach phonics. We have tutors working with classroom teachers who provide small group support in Reading and Math. In addition, we have many of our parent and community volunteers assist classroom teachers in a variety of capacities. Our teachers meet weekly with our instructional coach to plan instructional lessons that are focused, rigorous, and support all (diverse) learners. Next year Atkinson will implement FranklinCovey's whole school transformation process, *Leader in Me*. By teaching "The 7 Habits of Happy Kids," students will gain leadership opportunities, learn to be goal oriented, and aim to be productive citizens by positively contributing to their society.

The education of our children is a team effort and we are grateful to all of our volunteers and family members for their dedication to improving the quality of education here at Atkinson. Thank you for your investment in your child's school and for supporting our efforts to provide your child with a high-quality education.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Page", is written over a thin horizontal line.

Mark Page, Principal