



Atkinson Elementary School
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Hendersonville, NC 28739
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Dear Parent/Guardian:

September 1, 2021

I hope you and your child are having a good school year. As a parent/guardian of a student at Atkinson Elementary, I am writing this letter to let you know about a couple of our successes this year.

This is our fourth year of implementing the 7 Habits of Highly Effective People as a Leader in Me school. Our continued goal is to identify and amplify student strengths and to help develop the whole person - mind, body, heart, and spirit. Academically, we are continuing the district implemented reading and math program, iReady, in Kindergarten through 5th grades. This is also our fourth year of implementing iReady math in all grade levels and our second with iReady reading. The iReady programs allows teachers to personalize learning by diagnosing individual student learning needs, monitor growth over time, and assist teachers with targeted resources. We also have learning opportunities beyond the classroom such as ATK Heritage Day (biennial), Muddy Sneakers, Biltmore House, Historic Johnson Farm, Hendersonville Symphony, Kiwanis Spelling Bee, Battle of the Books, student music performances, professional productions at Flat Rock Playhouse, and other opportunities in the community. (Pandemic dependent).

As with any success, we also target room to grow and improve. Three years ago, Atkinson Elementary was designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement- Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school and a Targeted Support & Improvement- Consistently Underperforming (TSI-CU) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. We have made gains toward closing learning gaps, but since there was no testing data available for the 2019-2020 school year, school designations are unchanged for the 2020-21 school year, and again for the 2021-22 school year. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), North Carolina had to identify schools for targeted support and improvement. TSI-AT schools in North Carolina are those that have a subgroup that is under-performing. TSI-CU schools in North Carolina are those that have a subgroup that is consistently 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.

As a TSI-AT / TSI-CU school, Atkinson Elementary is required to develop a comprehensive plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve student achievement. The plan will also include how our district will support us and monitor the progress of our school. For example, our comprehensive plan will focus on the areas outlined in our school improvement plan, which can be found on our website.

Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways you can help:

- Make sure that both you and your child are aware of the academic expectations set for your child this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your child's teacher(s).
- Call Atkinson Elementary at (828) 697-4755 if you have questions or concerns about your child or to set up an appointment to meet with a school staff member who will be working with your child.
- Make sure that your student is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your child's homework.
- Monitor the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your child's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website and social media sites <http://www.hendersoncountypublicschoolsnc.org/atk/>

Preparing our students to succeed is not easy and is a group effort. If you are interested in accessing additional resources that can help your child or your child's school, please contact your child's teacher/s or the principal.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact Principal Mark Page at (828) 697-4755.