



October 10, 2018

Dear Parent/ Guardian,

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent /guardian of a student in ZECA School of the Arts and Technology, I am writing this letter to let you know that ZECA 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 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.”

School Performance Grades are calculated for all schools as required by the North Carolina Every Student Succeeds Act State Plan and North Carolina General Statute 115C-83.15. A – F letter grades are assigned to all public schools in the state.

School Performance Grades are assigned using a weighted model of 80% achievement and 20% growth. Schools with a grade span that does not go beyond 8th grade (grades 3-8, referred to as Elementary/Middle) use a defined set of indicators for the letter grades. School with a grade span starting at 9th grade (grades 9-13, referred to as High School) use another set of indicators. Schools with grades in both grade spans use the indicators from each combined to create one letter grade. These grades are used to identify schools in need of Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) as required by ESSA. Also, as required by state law, School Performance Grades and a school’s growth status determines whether a school is low- performing or a district is low-performing. Lists of CSI schools and low-performing schools and districts will be posted on the Accountability Services website after approval by the State Board of Education in October.

Elementary/Middle Indicators

Reading	36%
Mathematics	18.7%
Science Assessment	33.3%
EVAAS Student Growth (Reading, Mathematics and Science)	40 20

ZECA School of the Arts and Technology received a D in Reading and an F in Math and an overall score of F. As a low performing school ZECA is required to develop an improvement plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve both the school performance grade and the school growth score. The plan will also include how the Director will work with us and monitor the progress of our school. We are already refined our plan and presented the plan to our Board of Directors at their meeting on October 15, 2018, 6:00 at ZECA School of the Arts and Technology . After the initial approval by our Board of Directors, we will submit the plan to the State Board of Education for review. The State Board's designee, staff member of NCDPI's District and School Transformation division, will read each plan and provide feedback to the school. After considering the feedback from the state, our local Board of Directors our local board of directors will give a final approval to the plan so that the final plan for improvement can be posted on our local website www.zecaschoolofthearts.com as well as the NCDPI's website (www.ncpublicschools.org).

Our school is focused on continuous improvement and I look forward to working with each of you as we continue to focus on providing the best education for our children. Please don't hesitate to contact me with any specific questions as we move through this process.

Sincerely,

Stacey Owens-Howard

Stacey Owens-Howard
Director