



Mallard Creek STEM Academy  
9142 Browne Road  
Charlotte, NC 28269

Dear Titan Families,

I hope the school year is off to a successful start for you and your child. I am writing this letter to let you know that Mallard Creek STEM Academy has been designated as a Targeted Support & Improvement Additional Targeted Support (TSI-AT) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. Per ESSA Section 1111(d)(2), schools are identified as TSI-AT schools in North Carolina because one or more of the following subgroups received a subgroup performance grade score at or below the highest identified CSI-LP school's All Students group during the identification year; and is on the TSI-CU list for the subgroup(s) for the previous year. Subgroup performance scores are provided for the following subgroups: (1) Students with Disabilities, (2) Economically Disadvantaged, (3) Black, (4) White, (5) Hispanic, (6) Asian-Pacific Islander, (7) Multi-racial, and (8) English Learners. This letter is to notify our parents and guardians of Mallard Creek STEM Academy intentions to improve educational outcomes for students with disabilities and close achievement gaps for all students.

As a TSI-AT (ATSI) school, Mallard Creek STEM Academy is required to develop an Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) plan that specifically addresses how the school will improve outcomes for underperforming subgroups. The plan will also include strategies that our district or charter will employ to support Mallard Creek STEM Academy improvement efforts. The ATSI plan will address the following areas:

- Standards-aligned Instruction
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Instructional Leadership
- Support for Grade-to-Grade Transitions
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Support Services

We have set the following goals for Mallard Creek STEM Academy this year:

- To improve achievement outcomes for *students with disabilities* by 5% each school year for the next three years as evidenced by EOG assessment data.

Here are some strategies that we will be implementing to improve student outcomes:

- Professional Learning Communities that include gen ed and spec teachers.
- Professional Development related to differentiation and scaffolding.
- Co-teaching opportunities to bridge the gap between the gen ed and spec ed classrooms.

Also, parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts. Here are some ways we can work together:

- Ensure that both you and your child know the academic expectations set for your child this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your student's teacher(s).
- Reach out to Carla Forbes at [cforbes@mcstemacademy.org](mailto:cforbes@mcstemacademy.org) if you have questions or concerns about your student or to set up an appointment to meet with a school staff member who will be working with your child.
- Make sure that your child is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your child's homework.
- Monitor the progress your child is making and attend meetings with your child's teacher(s).
- Keep track of our website and social media sites [www.mcstemacademy.org](http://www.mcstemacademy.org)
- Volunteer.

Additionally, listed below are a few resources available to help:

- Titan Parent University:  
<https://sites.google.com/mcstemacademy.org/mcsa-titan-parent-university/home>
- Graduation requirements: [www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/)
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: [www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/curriculum/)
- State student achievement test results: [www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/](http://www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/)
- N.C. School Report Cards: <https://ncreportcards.ondemand.sas.com/src>

We are committed to improving student performance. It is important to remember that just as no single score or grade tells the whole story of a student, neither does it tell you everything about a school's performance or the opportunities that our school provides. The intent of receiving these designations is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact me at  
[dsmith@mcstemacademy.org](mailto:dsmith@mcstemacademy.org)

Sincerely,

**Deanna Smith**

Deanna Smith  
Executive Director