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<http://ncva.k12.com>

December 7, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I hope the school year has started successfully for all of you. As a parent/guardian of a student in the North Carolina Virtual Academy (NCVA), I am writing this letter to let you know that NCVA, has been designated as a Comprehensive Support & Improvement Low-Graduation Rate (CSI-LG) school by the North Carolina State Board of Education. As stated in ESSA Section 1111(c)(4)(D)(i), North Carolina had to identify schools for comprehensive support and improvement. CSI-LG schools in North Carolina are high schools that have a 4-year cohort graduation rate of less than 66.7%.

While our graduation rate fell below that target, it was due to students that left NCVA and we could no longer find. We celebrated our first graduating class with more than 40 seniors as they earned scholarships to many colleges and universities across the nation. The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction. Even though the NCVA graduation rate will exceed the minimum figure identified above, our school will remain in this status for 3 years. Only at the end of those three years will we have the opportunity to be removed from the CSI-LG designation.

As a CSI-LG school, NCVA 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. The comprehensive plan, housed in the state's NC STAR platform, addresses the following areas:

- Standards-aligned Instruction
- Professional Learning Communities (PLCs)
- Instructional Leadership
- Recruitment & Retention of Effective Teachers
- Support for Grade-to-Grade Transitions
- Implementation of a Tiered Instructional System
- Data-Driven Decision Making
- Student Support Services
- Family and Community Engagement

We have set the following goals for NCVA this year:

- Attain growth on the State's EVAAS calculation
- Attain a School Performance Grade of "C" or higher
- Increase academic outcomes (proficiency) on the School Report Card by 10% in Math, ELA, and Science
- Have 80% of full year students show one year's growth on NWEA MAP assessments

*Every child...Every class...Every day*



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Parent engagement is at the heart of our school improvement efforts, so please adhere to the “I Understand and Agree” statements in the Parent/Student Handbook. Here are some ways we can work together:

- Make sure that both you and your student are aware of academic expectations set for your student this school year. A list of learning objectives in student-friendly language is available from your student’s teacher(s).
- Call us at the school 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 student.
- Make sure that your student is prepared and attends school each day.
- Monitor your student’s coursework daily.
- Monitor the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student’s teacher(s).
- Volunteer.

Sounds like a lot but preparing our students so that they can succeed is not easy and is a group effort. Here are some resources available to help:

- School website: <https://ncva.k12.com>
- 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 excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your student. Already, we have seen success with changes made:

- Changes:
  - Targeted onboarding to ensure students are prepared from the first day
  - Schedule changes to offer more targeted instruction for students
  - Free, online tutoring offered in math
- Success:
  - Family satisfaction scores ahead of those from the prior year
  - Highest teacher satisfaction and morale scores in school history
  - Lowest student withdrawal rate for the first two months in school history

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please email me at [jomedley@ncvacademy.org](mailto:jomedley@ncvacademy.org).

Sincerely,

*Every child...Every class...Every day*