



Lumberton High School
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December 17, 2017

During the 2014-15 school year, the United States Department of Education (USED) invited North Carolina's State educational agency (SEA) to request continuing flexibility on behalf of itself, its local educational agencies, and schools, in order to better focus on improving student learning and increasing the quality of instruction. This spring, the North Carolina Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) Flexibility Request was approved by USED.

The intent of this opportunity is to improve educational outcomes for all students, close achievement gaps, increase equity, and improve the quality of instruction by providing educators and State and local leaders with flexibility regarding specific requirements of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (NCLB) in exchange for rigorous and comprehensive State-developed plans. Additionally, states are required to identify three specific categories of schools (Priority, Focus, and Reward) under methodologies approved within the Flexibility Request.

I am writing to let you know that the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has identified Lumberton High School as a Priority School. Priority Schools are identified as a result of the achievement level of the "all students" group in terms of proficiency (reading/math) over a number of years or, for secondary schools, having a graduation rate less than 60% over a number of years.

Priority Schools are required to implement interventions aligned with the following ESEA "Turnaround Principles":

- Strong leadership
- Effective teachers and improved instruction
- Expanded learning time
- Strengthened instructional program
- Use of data
- School safety and discipline
- Family and community engagement

We continue to strive for improvements in student achievement and graduation rates. The vision for Lumberton High School is: **To become a school of distinction recognized for excellence in scholarship, leadership, citizenship, and sportsmanship, through the collaborative efforts of students, parents, school personnel and the community.**

We have set the following goals for Lumberton High School this year:

- *All students in EOC's will show a year's worth of growth (7%).*
- *All eligible students will participate in required testing in areas identified in testing reports giving emphasis to ACT and Workkeys.*
- *All students will benefit from a school wide literacy plan that concentrates on basic skills enrichment for all students in the areas of reading, writing, math, and science; the plan will include strategies that promote thinking and reasoning.*

Our students need to experience higher achievement levels, but it will require hard work on the part of staff, students and families. Here are some strategies Lumberton High will be implementing:

Lumberton High School uses tiered interventions as a means of intensifying and tailoring instruction to support students with additional needs. School wide use of Common Core Essential standards ensures that all students are provided equal educational opportunities. Additionally, LHS' use of a pyramid of interventions ensures that the individual needs of students can be met through resources and services such as extended learning times (during and after school), IEP's, PEP's, LEP's, 504's, mentoring, tutorial, GEARUP, APEX learning, guidance and counseling, social worker, speech pathology, and many others. All teachers at LHS have access to guaranteed and viable curriculum supports such as SchoolNet, Flocabulary, Qia, Google Classroom, EdPuzzle, Newsella, and Kahn Academy to supplement instruction and insure equitable instruction for ALL students.

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

- 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 Mrs. M T Lindsay 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 homework.
- Monitor and limit the amount of time your student spends watching television and playing video games.
- Monitor the progress your student is making and attend meetings with your student's teacher(s).
- Volunteer.
- Join the LHS Academic Booster Club

Sounds like a lot, doesn't it? Preparing our students so that they can succeed against 21st century demands isn't easy. But it is essential. Here are some resources available to help:

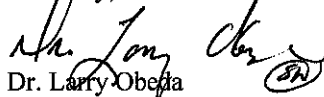
- Teacher webpages www.robeson.k12.nc.us/site/, <https://www.robeson.k12.nc.us/lshs>
- Graduation requirements: www.ncpublicschools.org/gradrequirements/
- K-12 standards in academic subjects: www.ncpublicschools.org/acre/standards/
- State student achievement test results: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/
- N.C. School Report Cards: www.ncreportcards.org/
- School report card

We're excited about this school year and are working to make it a success for your student. Already, we have:

- Purchased computer software and hardware, conducted training for teachers, held open house/PTSO, begun After School Tutorial, Credit Recovery, and Saturday Academy.

If you have questions about the content of this letter, please contact M T Lindsay at mary.lindsay@robeson.k12.nc.us or 910-671-6050.

Sincerely,



Dr. Larry Obeda
Principal, Lumberton High School