

Swope Middle School

901 Keele Drive
Reno, Nevada 89509
Phone (775) 333-5330
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Mr. Mike Nakashima, *Principal*
Mr. Eian Gilbert, *Asst. Principal*



August 29, 2022

Dear Parent or Guardian,

The purpose of this letter is to notify you that your child's school has been newly identified as a TSI/ATSI school for the 2022-2023 school year. This letter provides important information regarding your child's school and describes the protocol for measuring the academic performance of public schools in Nevada.

In December 2015, the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) was signed into law. Highlights of ESSA include holding all students to high academic standards and identifying low performing schools along with appropriate supports for school improvement. Under ESSA, there are two main school designations: Comprehensive Support and Improvement (CSI) and Targeted Support and Improvement (TSI). Additional Targeted Support and Improvement (ATSI) is another school designation.

The State uses results from its school rating system, the Nevada School Performance Framework (NSPF), to identify CSI, TSI, and ATSI schools.

TSI Schools

TSI schools are schools that meet the following conditions:

- Schools with consistently underperforming subgroups (25 students or more) across these indicators
 - Academic Achievement: Math and ELA proficiency (for elementary schools, Read by Grade 3 proficiency),
 - Academic Growth,
 - English Learner Growth,
 - Student Engagement.
- Schools with underperforming subgroups in the Academic Achievement indicator AND two other indicators

TSI schools are schools with consistently underperforming student subgroups that did not meet targets for two years in a row.

ATSI Schools

ATSI schools are identified annually and are:

- A subset of TSI schools that require additional targeted support because of significant subgroup performance challenges that would, on their own, lead to a CSI designation,
- Based on subgroup number of students greater than or equal to 25.

ATSI schools were those with very low performing subgroups in 2019 only. ATSI schools must reduce the number of non-proficient students identified in subgroup performance by at least 10% for two consecutive years or meet the school's measures of interim progress for two consecutive years.

School Specific Information

Perseverance Respect Organization Worth Ethic Leadership

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This is the 3rd year your child's school has been identified as a TSI/ATSI school. Your child's school has been identified as a TSI/ATSI school because it meets the condition(s) listed above. You can find out specifics about those indicators by clicking on this link:

http://nevadareportcard.nv.gov/DI/nv/washoe/darrel_swope_middle_school/2018/nspf/

The following root causes have been identified as reasons why your child's school has been listed as underperforming:

- *Distance and Hybrid Learning were not as engaging or supported as daily attendance. Lack of supervision at home and new attendance policies were confusing for learners. COVID Quarantines, Smoke Days, and medical absences count towards chronic absenteeism. Classrooms had less interaction and students were less likely to talk to their neighbors due to the social distancing and masking protocols in place. Student activities after school and at lunch time were limited due to the same protocols. Parents, teachers, and students were focused on Maslow's hierarchy of survival rather than self-actualization. Fewer opportunities to celebrate attendance, academic achievement, and participate in extra-curricular activities for students.*
- *Pace of District Math curriculum map not in alignment with necessary classroom pacing for depth of knowledge. We chose to focus on Essential Standards to begin the PLC Process in 2021, Steps #3 and #4 (Intervention/Enrichment) of the PLC process are next. Creating common assessments now to identify growth and need additional time to plan. Need to move on and focus on data and ways to improve student access to learning tools. Finding the time in the day to increase student access to researched practices like Lexia for our students while also providing students access to SEL understandings through story.*
- *Language barriers. 1 ½ years of low social educational interactions with peers and teachers for students returning from distance learning. Lack of knowledge and experience with middle school expectations moving from class to class, accessing information in a school, and understanding procedures. Lack of social interactions with colleagues for teachers due to previous and continued guidance.*

With this determination, your child's school will receive increased levels of support which will include:

1. Access to the CSI/TSI/TSI-ATSI Microsoft Team which gives updates regarding designation, information and access to trainings, updates from the Nevada Department of Education, and all relevant information for designated schools.
2. Priority scheduling for professional development, professional trainings, data analysis, and meetings designed to navigate designation status.
3. Access to information that outlines their designation, target areas for improvement, professional development, and guidance in CIP-SPP planning.
4. Access to the Nevada Department of Education CSI/TSI/TSI-ATSI padlet which contains information, training updates, and other valuable tools for school improvement.

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The following have been identified as district goals for the 2022-2023 school year:

- Academic Growth
- Developing Recruiting, and Training Highly-Effective Personnel
- Family and Community Engagement
- Continuous Improvement
- Safe and Welcoming Schools

School Specific Actions:

To provide support and meet school and district goals, Swope MS is using RALLY Grant funds to reduce class size in social studies classes which support reading development, an Intervention Teacher to support students with credit recovery and students identified as needing to catch up to grade-level based on ELA and math summative assessments, and a Family Graduation Advocate to support communication with families as well as help families navigate the school system. ESSER funding to support after school tutoring and scheduling a guest teacher to support Tier 2 students in a pull-out fashion, developing a trusting relationship and working to support executive functioning as well as improve academic skills. Finally, Swope MS is working to identify a long-term guest teacher to support Tier 2 math instruction in the classroom to increase student growth in math. Additionally, your child's school is implementing a Second Step Social Emotional Curriculum in Advisory class with fidelity with a focus of one lesson a week. The district will support your child's school by helping navigate the TSI/ATSI process, professional trainings, data analysis, and access to trainings from the Nevada Department of Education [NDE]. Also, the district will support your child's school by working with the school to create a TSI/ATSI plan. You will receive further information on how you can engage in this process, as required under federal law. You will also receive a copy of this plan once it is created.

For more information about the progress being made by your child's school, please review the School Performance Plan on your school's website. The school's NSPF report is available at Nevada Department of Education's Report Card portal. Please contact your school at 775-353-5330 or swope@washoeschools.net for more information.

Lastly, parent and family engagement is critical to your child's success. You are welcome and encouraged to become involved in the academic progress of your child's school. Please visit your child's school for information about parent and family engagement opportunities.

Sincerely,

Mike Nakashima, Principal