

Central Elementary School  
575 Union Hill Road  
Amherst, VA 24521  
434-846-2151  
November 10, 2016

Principal: Ms. Wanda Smith

Dear Parent(s) or Guardian(s):

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* designates 2016-2017 as a transition year during which the U.S. Department of Education will issue final regulations and states will develop implementation plans for carrying out the new act. The new law and the provisions of each state's plan to implement ESSA will go into full effect with the beginning of the 2017-2018 school year. Under the previous act referred to as *No Child Left Behind (NCLB)*, states were required to set Annual Measurable Objectives (AMOs). However, under ESSA states are required to set Accreditation Benchmarks to demonstrate student achievement.

According to the waiver granted by the US Department of Education, state and school accountability is focused on raising achievement for all students by meeting or exceeding the Accreditation Benchmarks. The table below shows the requirements for each tested area as well as our school's performance on these tests for the past three years.

Subject	Benchmark	Accreditation Data			Met Benchmark
		2014-2015	2015-2016	2016-2017	
Reading	75	70	65	64	No
Math	70	67	71	79	Yes
History	70	79	84	78	Yes
Science	70	76	73	79	Yes

At the end of the 2015-2016 school year, Central Elementary achieved a score of 64 in Reading, 79 in Math, 78 in History and 79 in Science. Based on the reading scores our school did not meet the qualification of Accreditation and is designated as Accreditation Denied for the 2016-2017 school year. Under the new ESSA Guidance, the school division will be required to create, implement, and monitor a school improvement plan that details specific reading interventions that will be implemented in order to raise the academic achievement of all students.

Central Elementary continues to work toward improving academic performance with a variety of interventions for struggling students, including but not limited to, additional small group instruction with highly qualified teachers and additional time spent on computer-based adaptive reading programs, hands-on strategies and many more. Parents are encouraged to partner with the school in raising their child's achievement by assisting with reading and home-based activities, and by attending parent-teacher conferences or other activities and events offered at the school. In addition, we invite you to attend a school improvement forum scheduled in February, 2017 to learn more about our school improvement collaboration.

If you have any questions, you may contact Ms. Wanda Smith, Principal, at 946-9700.

Sincerely,



Central Elementary Principal