



*Viola Hodge Fedd
Principal*

Sumter County Middle School

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*Angelina Brunson
Assistant Principal*

September 30, 2013

Dear Parent(s)/Guardian(s):

Your child attends Sumter County Middle School, which receives Federal Title I funds to assist students in meeting state achievement standards. Your child's school has an achievement gap in the areas of Mathematics and Reading/Language Arts between the highest performing subgroup and the lowest performing subgroup. Due to this achievement gap, over the next three years your child's school has been identified as a Focus School. This designation was based on 2011 state test data.

Focus Schools are 10% of Title I schools that have the largest within-school gaps between the highest-achieving subgroup or subgroups and the lowest-achieving subgroup or subgroups or, at the high school level, have the largest within-school gaps in graduation rates (within-school-gaps Focus School). They can also be Title I high schools with a graduation rate less than 60 percent over a number of years that are not identified as a Priority School (low-graduation-rate Focus School).

According to the 2011 Criterion-Referenced Competency Test (CRCT), the gap between the lowest achieving subgroup in math is 25.69% (46.81 % of students with disabilities meeting/exceeding) and the highest achieving subgroup (72.5% of Caucasian students meeting/exceeding). In the area of Reading/English Language Arts, the gap between the lowest achieving subgroup is 29.49% (61.31 % of students with disabilities meeting/exceeding) and the highest achieving subgroup (90.8% of Caucasian students meeting/exceeding). SCMS Flexible Learning Plan will address weaknesses in the areas of math and reading.

As a Focus School, we will work collaboratively with parents/guardians, our community, and our school district office to develop a school turnaround plan which will implement interventions to respond to the specific needs of the students in our school. One of the interventions we will provide throughout the next three years is a Flexible Learning Program (FLP).

A FLP offers academic assistance such as tutoring, remediation and other educational interventions designed to increase the academic achievement of students within our school. Therefore, as part of our efforts to improve student achievement and implement ESEA, your child is eligible to receive FLP services. While support classes started the first week of school, the FLP program will be fully operational Tuesday, October 1, 2013.

The program will be conducted in compliance with all Title I laws and regulations. Tutors will provide day- time small group instruction to actively engage students and deliver personalized academic support to the FLP students. The intervention plan will be conducted during the school day to meet the needs of the targeted at risk students and limit transportation and attendance concerns. The school day at Sumter County Middle School starts at 7:30 a.m. and extends through 3:10 p.m. each day. This allows FLP students to be served 35 minutes above the state required instructional day. The program will be conducted beginning in August – May of the school year. The student teacher ratio will be 15 to 1 or less.

Tutors will develop a Personalized Math and Reading Education Plan for each student to address specific areas of weakness and gaps. Program staff will develop portfolios for each student to include the personalized plan, work samples, data, and progress reports. Diagnostic Testing and Progress Monitoring will be administered and results will be analyzed each grading period to ensure that goals are met. Adjustments will be made as needed based on data. Services will be provided to designated classes reserved specifically for the FLP students. During each class, the student/instructor ratio will be 15:1.

Tutors will monitor the progress of each student through the ILP (individualized learning plan) that defines the specific area of weakness for each student thus allowing the instruction for each student to be tailored, measured, and modified if needed throughout the program duration. Transportation services will not be provided since services are provided during the school day.

To enroll your child in our school's FLP, please complete and return the attached form to your child's homeroom teacher by Tuesday, October 1, 2013. If the attached form is not returned, your child will still be served by the school's FLP until written notice is received from you.

This year, two parent meetings will be held to provide more information on the FLP services being offered at our school. These meetings will provide you the opportunity to view first-hand the FLP services being provided to your child as well as provide you with a copy of our school district's written FLP plan. Please plan to attend one of these meetings which will take place on October 8, 2013 and January 14, 2014 at 6:30 p.m. in the school cafeteria.

For questions or additional information, please contact Viola Hodge Fedd by phone at 229.924.1010 or by email at vfedd@sumterschools.org. We want to ensure that our parents/guardians continue to be informed about the educational interventions we are offering to our students to increase student academic achievement.

Sincerely,

Viola Hodge Fedd
Principal