

Dear CUE Families,

During the 2016- 2017 school year Charlotte Upper Elementary was informed that we were no longer considered a Focus School. A Focus School is a building whose gap between the top and bottom 30% is wider than the State's average. This was wonderful news as it meant all the hard work we've put into our students has been helping. However, we will not settle for just not-being-a-Focus School. We strive to be considered by our community and State as one of the best schools in the area. To that end we have re-envisioned our intervention process.

Under our previous model four highly qualified teachers provided Title services to our students helping them in reading and math. While these teachers have done a tremendous job, we found that we still had a waiting list for students in need.

To solve this problem the What I Need (WIN) time will be adopting a flooding model. In this model we no longer just rely on our four Title teachers, but will pull from our 4th grade, 5th grade, and Special Education teachers. Using this model we can do two things. First, we can offer intervention support , if needed, for 170 students simultaneously. These services will focus heavily on reading using the REWARDS program. These groups will be between 12- 15 students. In addition, to this small group intervention some students may also be eligible for more intensive services where groups of under 10 are periodically pulled from ENCOREs for support in reading or math. Under this model a student who needs support of reading could receive 90 minutes of core reading instruction, 60 minutes of REWARDS instruction, and possibly 45 minutes of intensive reading instruction for a total of 195 minutes of instruction without losing any time in reading, math, science, or social studies.

While this model will allow us to help more students simultaneously, we also recognize that we have a population who is looking for school to challenge them more than just what core instruction provides. That is why there will also be larger groups of 27 or under who will experience opportunities to extend their understanding in reading and math. Much of the curriculum during this time will be based around non-fiction writing, honing research skills, practicing analysis of data and texts, and presentations. Its purpose is to focus on what has already been taught during core instruction and go deeper.

A successful student isn't one who can just pass a test. Our goal is to provide the opportunities for students to begin to look around their world and ask the all important questions of "why?" and "can that be done better?".

Your Friend,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark McGarry". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mark" and last name "McGarry" clearly legible.

Mr. Mark McGarry
Principal