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MEMORANDUM

TO: Randolph County Board of Education
Dr. Stephen Gainey, Superintendent

PRESENTED BY: Tim Moody, Public Information Officer

PREPARED BY: Catherine Berry, Assistant Superintendent

DATE: November 23, 2015

RE: Recognition of the 2015-2016 Signature Schools

Archdale Elementary School

Within the past year, Archdale Elementary School has implemented many changes that encourage professional growth for the staff as well as academic growth for students. A master schedule has been developed to ensure that all subjects are taught in an equitable manner. In addition to providing weekly grade level and vertical planning sessions, the master schedule also provides teacher time to meet weekly with the lead teacher and the administration to review student and grade level data. Classroom teachers participate in full-day quarterly planning sessions, and support staff meets with the lead teacher to plan strategies to supplement subject area content. This ensures continuity throughout the school, thus maximizing instructional opportunities in all areas for all students.

A school-level data team has been created to analyze student performance and guide instruction. Archdale Elementary School uses the Reading 3D assessment in kindergarten through fifth grade to consistently track reading data across all grade levels. Data from the end of the 2014-2015 school year reflected significant growth of 20 percentage points or more in four out of the six grade levels, with an overall average growth rate of 27 percentage points. The school has participated in numerous professional development opportunities, including Reading 3D training with the NCDPI Piedmont-Triad K-3 Literacy Consultant. The reading program at Archdale Elementary School has been redesigned to allow a reading specialist to serve students in each grade level.

Archdale Elementary School offers after-school clubs for students, including Student Council and GEMS (Girls Excelling in Math and Science), which promote leadership and responsibility. Teachers participate in peer walkthroughs, visiting pre-K through 5th grade classrooms, to observe best practices. District team members also conduct walkthroughs at least two times per year.

The changes at Archdale Elementary School have yielded positive results. Data reflects a 3.5 percentage point increase in reading proficiencies on End-of-Grade tests last year and a 3.3 percentage point increase in science proficiency. Archdale Elementary School exceeded expected growth for the 2014-2015 school year, and it is for these reasons and more, that Archdale Elementary School students are quick to remind others that Archdale Elementary School is the “best school in North Carolina.”

Southwestern Randolph High School

Over the past three years, we have implemented several changes in order to improve the quality of teaching and learning at Southwestern Randolph High School. A focus on relationships and rigor has contributed to our teachers' and students' successes. Teachers work collaboratively in content-area PLCs to plan and deliver instruction, with a focus on data from common assessments and appropriate interventions. An added emphasis has been placed on graduating students that are College and Career Ready. This is evidenced by students earning more industry credentials than any other school in the Randolph County School System. In addition, students are prepared for the ACT via after school study sessions and a school-wide emphasis on ACT vocabulary. Students also have the opportunity to take numerous courses that allow them to earn college credit.

Improved morale has occurred by implementing several strategies to recognize staff and student accomplishments: data celebrations, student of the week, Cougar Compliments, staff member of the month, and others. Increased visibility by school administration in the classroom has helped to create an atmosphere in which teachers are comfortable with constructive feedback. A once non-existent PTO has transformed into a thriving organization which has hosted numerous community events in partnership with local businesses to benefit the students of Southwestern Randolph High School. All of this has come together to create a positive culture for all students and teachers, making our staff and student body excited about coming to work and school as evidenced by our three-year data trends.

- EOC growth has increased 7.34% (from 3.1% to 10.44%)
- School-wide growth has increased 8.2 points (-1.2 to 7.05)
- EOC proficiency has increased 11.4% (43.9% to 55.3%)
- ACT average score has risen from 16.3% to 17.6%
- WorkKeys has seen a 25% increase (from 56% to 81%)
- Graduation rate has remained near 90%