

# Southern Local School District

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September 21, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians of third grade students,

I would like to provide you with some very important information regarding the Grade Three state assessment in ELA/Reading. This assessment/test is mandated by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). Grade three face to face students who attend Southern Local Elementary School will complete part one of the test on Tuesday, October 20 and part two of the test on Wednesday, October 21. The ELA/Reading test will be a paper pencil test. October 22, 23 and 26 will be designated as make-up days for students who were absent on Tuesday or Wednesday. All testing must be completed by October 26.

Southern Local students who are currently virtual classroom students or home school students can also complete the test on the scheduled days if parents would like their child to do so. The ODE requires that all students complete the test in a classroom setting. Students will be divided into small groups and will need to wear a face covering. At this time the ODE does not offer the ELA/Reading test in remote/distance form.

American Institutes for Research (AIR) is the company the Ohio Department of Education has contracted with for testing services. At this time AIR has indicated student results/parent home reports from the October assessment will arrive at the elementary school in late January of 2021. Individual student home reports from the October test will be mailed shortly after they arrive at the elementary school.

Parents of virtual classroom students or home school students who would like their child to complete the test or have questions about the test can contact Mr. Larry Rudloff. Parents can reach Mr. Rudloff by telephone (330-679-2301 #4019) or by email ([larry.rudloff@omeresanet.net](mailto:larry.rudloff@omeresanet.net)). The school is requesting that parents who would like their child to complete the test contact Mr. Rudloff no later than Monday, October 12. This will give the school time to build our student test groups and organize the needed number of test books.

During the October administration of the ELA/Reading test it is important that our students demonstrate their academic skill and knowledge by putting forth their maximum effort when completing the test. The ELA/Reading test is important in that it will provide the school and home with an accurate assessment of each student's knowledge and ability in the area of ELA/Reading. Please encourage your child to put forth his/her best effort. The school will remind each student of the importance of carefully listening to and reading all directions that pertain to the assessment. Your child's teacher has been working very hard in the classroom to prepare your child for the test.

At home parents may assist their children by encouraging them to put forth a maximum effort on the test. We encourage parents to set a reasonable bedtime for their children so they will be fresh and alert in the morning.

In order to aid in the administration of the test, one hundred percent attendance for all students is a goal which will increase the test taking continuity and efficiency for each student. Because the test will be administered in

the morning at 9:30, we are asking that parents schedule any necessary medical appointments after 1:00 P. M. if possible.

During the 2012-2013 school year the Ohio Department of Education implemented The Third Grade Reading Guarantee in Ohio. As part of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee one of the legislative requirements state that beginning with the 2013-2014 school year all students scoring below the designated promotion level on the ELA/Reading assessment must be retained.

For the 2020-2021 school year the ODE has established the following test scores regarding the TGRG promotion requirement. To meet the promotion requirement a student must attain a composite scale score of 683 and above or a Reading sub score of 46 and above.

All Ohio grade three students will take the ELA/Reading test a second time in late March or early April of 2021. The student's highest score is the score that will count regarding the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and possible retention. Students who do not reach the promotion score on the October or April test may be required to take the Summer 2021 test.

Students who do not reach the required promotion score on the October or April ELA/Reading test will have an opportunity to meet the Third Grade Reading Guarantee promotion requirement by taking an Alternative Reading Assessment. The ODE permits grade three students to take the Alternative Reading Assessment twice during the school year and once in the Summer. At this time Southern Local Elementary School will use the Terra Nova 3 Alternative Reading Assessment. A scale score of 615 and higher is required to meet the promotion requirement on the Terra Nova 3. During the 2020-2021 school year our third grade students will have a maximum of six opportunities to score at or above the required promotion score. Students will have three opportunities to take the AIR ELA/Reading test and three opportunities to take the Terra Nova Alternative Reading test.

Parents will be kept informed of their child's progress regarding the Third Grade Reading Guarantee and the promotion requirement. As student test scores become available home report information will be mailed to parents.

Prior to Covid-19 these two notes of importance regarding the Third Grade Reading Guarantee would apply: (1) Students who do not take the grade three Reading test during the October administration window or the make-up window will be considered to have scored zero for the purposes of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. (2) The law does not provide a parent the right to refuse the requirements of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

**Current Ohio legislation, Section 18 of House Bill 164, states that a school shall not retain a student in third grade during the 2020-2021 school year who does not meet the promotion score of 683 or 46 on the state test or 615 on the Terra Nova 3 if the principal and Reading teacher agree that other evaluations of the student's Reading skills demonstrate the student is prepared to be promoted to fourth grade. Parents will be kept informed as the ODE provides the school with updated Third Grade Reading Guarantee information.**

If you have any questions regarding the ELA/Reading assessment or the Third Grade Reading Guarantee please contact me at your convenience by calling Southern Local Elementary School. You can reach me by calling 330-679-2301 #4019 or by email at [larry.rudloff@omeres.net](mailto:larry.rudloff@omeres.net). Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Larry Rudloff  
Guidance Counselor