

Southern Local School District

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September 24, 2019

Re: Grade Three American Institutes for Research (AIR) Test in English Language Arts (ELA)/Reading

Dear Parents/Guardians of third grade students,

I would like to provide you with some very important information regarding the Grade Three AIR assessment in ELA/Reading. This assessment/test is mandated by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE). Grade three students who attend Southern Local Elementary School will complete the test on Tuesday, October 22 and Wednesday, October 23. This assessment will be a paper pencil test. Thursday, October 24 and Friday, October 25 will be designated as make-up days for students who were absent on Tuesday or Wednesday. If needed, Monday, October 28 can also be used for make-up testing. All testing must be completed by October 28.

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 2020. Individual student home reports from the October test will be mailed shortly after they arrive at the elementary school.

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, 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 2019-2020 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 2020. 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 2020 test.

Students who do not reach the required promotion score on the October or April ELA/Reading test will have an opportunity 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. During the 2019-2020 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.

Two notes of importance regarding the Third Grade Reading Guarantee are: (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. As you can see student attendance is extremely important.

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. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Sincerely,
Larry Rudloff
Guidance Counselor