

# Southern Local School District

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February 8, 2021

Dear Parents and Guardians of grade three students who attend Southern Local Elementary School. During the 2012-2013 school year the (ODE) Ohio Department of Education implemented the (TGRG) Third Grade Reading Guarantee. 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 Not on Track/Promotion Requirement level on the third grade ELA/Reading Assessment must be retained. The ODE has determined the On Track/Promotion level for the third grade ELA/Reading Assessment for the 2020-2021 school year is 683 and above on the combined ELA/Reading Assessment or a sub score of 46 and above on the Reading part of the assessment. Students who scored below 683 and 46 have not yet met the Promotion Requirement regarding the TGRG.

On January 25, 2021 I mailed the October ELA/Reading Assessment Home Reports to the parents of each of our grade three students who completed the October ELA/Reading Assessment. Along with your child's home report you received a letter from me that indicated if your child was On Track or Not on Track and if your child had met the TGRG Promotion Requirement.

During the 2013-2014 school year the ODE established the Third Grade Alternative Reading Assessment. The Alternative Reading Assessment is a standardized assessment for Reading that has been approved by the ODE for the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. The Third Grade Alternative Reading Assessment allows a third grade student to demonstrate an acceptable level of Reading performance for promotion to fourth grade using the Alternative Assessment tool. A student may only be promoted to the fourth grade based on their acceptable level of performance on the Alternative standardized assessment if they did not score 683 or 46 or higher on the October ELA/Reading Assessment. Southern Local Elementary School will use the Terra Nova 3 as our Alternative Reading Assessment tool. The required Promotion Scale Score on the Terra Nova 3 is 615 and above.

All grade three students who scored below 683 and 46 on the October ELA/Reading Assessment will complete the Terra Nova Reading Assessment on Tuesday, March 9. Terra Nova Reading results will be mailed to parents shortly after our students have completed the assessment. All Grade three students will complete the Spring State ELA/Reading Assessment on Thursday, March 25 and Monday, March 29. Electronic results from the March ELA/Reading Assessment are scheduled to be available in late June. Parent reports are scheduled to arrive in late July.

Grade three students who scored below 683 and 46 on the October ELA/Reading Assessment will have two additional opportunities to complete the Alternative Reading Assessment. Wednesday, May 19 and Wednesday, June 9 have been designated as Alternative Reading Assessment days. Upon receiving assessment results the school will inform parents of their child's score. Parents will be notified of their child's results by mail.

Students who do not score at or above the required TGRG Promotion Score on March 25 and March 29 on the State ELA/Reading Assessment or the May 19, or June 9 Alternative Reading Assessment will be required to complete the July 6 State ELA/Reading Assessment. Electronic results from the July State ELA/Reading Assessment will be available in late August. Parent reports are scheduled to arrive in early September.

Students who score On Track or above on the March 9 Alternative Reading Assessment are not required to complete the May 19 or the June 9 Alternative Reading Assessment. Students who score at or above the required Promotion Score on

the May 19 Alternative Reading Assessment are not required to complete the June 9 Alternative Reading Assessment or the July 6 State ELA/Reading Assessment.

Students are only required to score at or above the required Promotion Scale Score on one of the five remaining test opportunities to meet the ELA/Reading Promotion Requirement for Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee. As a reminder, students who do not score at or above the required promotion level on any of the assessments will be required to repeat grade three during the 2021-2022 school year.

There are a number of things that parents and teachers can do in working together to assist our students in maintaining their focus and putting forth their best effort. Each day we will encourage our students to put forth their best effort and we will remind the students of the importance of carefully listening to, and reading all directions that pertain to the assessment.

At home parents may assist their children by encouraging them to put forth a maximum effort on the assessments. Parents should 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 our assessment program one hundred percent attendance for all students is a goal which will increase the test efficiency for each student. Because the assessments will be administered in the morning, we are asking that parents schedule all medical appointments after 1:00 P.M. If a student is absent for one of the assessments, the assessment that was missed will be made up the next day the student is in school.

As a parent you will receive a copy of your child's test results shortly after the results arrive at the school. For all grade three students, the highest score will be the score that is reported to the Ohio Department of Education. Spring and Summer Reading intervention will be offered to all grade three students who have not scored at or above the required Promotion level on the State ELA/Reading Assessment or the Alternative Reading Assessment.

The Ohio Department of Education has established specific rules/guidelines that apply to the administration of all state assessments. One of the rules/guidelines that all parents and students need to be aware of pertains to electronic devices during testing. The rule states: All electronic devices (cell phones, iPods, etc.) must be collected from students prior to the test administration. Students must be told that electronic devices are prohibited during the test administration. Use of an electronic device during a test administration is a security violation. Schools are required to report test security violations to the ODE. Southern Local Elementary School strongly recommends that students leave all electronic devices at home on school days during which they will be completing the State ELA/Reading Assessment or the Alternative Reading Assessment.

If you have questions regarding your child's current status in Reading please contact me at your convenience. Parents of online/remote students who have not met the promotion requirement are asked to contact me to let me know if your child will complete the Terra Nova 3 Alternative Reading Assessment on March 9. This will allow me to order the needed number of test books. You can reach me by calling 330-679-2301, extension 4019 or by email at [larry.rudloff@omeres.net](mailto:larry.rudloff@omeres.net). For your convenience I have included the March/May/June/July testing schedule.

March 9, Alternative Reading Assessment (9:30 AM)  
March 25 and March 29, State ELA/Reading Assessment (9:30 AM)  
May 19, Alternative Reading Assessment (9:30 AM)  
June 9, Alternative Reading Assessment (9:30 AM)  
July 6, State ELA Reading Assessment (9:30 AM)

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Sincerely,  
Larry Rudloff  
Guidance Counselor