

Southern Local School District
38095 State Route 39 Salineville, Ohio 43945
330-679-2305 Phone

September 21, 2024

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 students who attend Southern Local Elementary School will complete part one of the test on Monday, October 21 and part two of the test on Tuesday, October 22. The ELA/Reading test will be a paper pencil test. October 23, 24, & 25 will be designated as make-up days for students who were absent on test days. Attendance and punctuality for these two days are crucial for this important test.

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. 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.

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 may be recommended for retention.

To meet the promotion requirement a student must attain a composite scale score of 700 and/or a reading subscore of 50. All Ohio grade three students will take the ELA/Reading test a second time in late March or early April of 2025. The student's highest score is the score that will count regarding the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. 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 and/or the MAPS Growth Assessment. A scale score of 627 and higher is required to meet the promotion requirement on the Terra Nova 3 and a 196 is required to meet the promotion requirement for MAPS.

I realize that Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee promotion requirement can be confusing to parents. Again, there are several ways that a student can meet the Third Grade Reading Guarantee promotion requirement. They are:

- Score at or above 50 on the Reading part of the state assessment.
- Score at or above 700 on the combined ELA/Reading state assessment.
- Score at or above 627 on the Terra Nova 3 Alternative Reading assessment.

Students only need to meet one of the three score requirement levels listed above to meet Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee.

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 #4062 or by email at jacquelyn.collins@slindians.org. Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Sincerely,
Jackie Collins
School Counselor