

# Grainger County Schools

Teach. Learn. Succeed

## MEDIA RELEASE

Grainger County Schools received 3<sup>rd</sup> grade TCAP (Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program) information from the Tennessee Department of Education (TDOE) on May 20, 2024. Principals and teachers at our elementary schools notified parents and families on Monday and Tuesday of their child's score and performance level. We currently have 206 students in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade across our district.

TDOE scores released this week were categorized as Proficient, Approaching or Below Expectations for TCAP. TDOE has established Pathways to Promotion for any student that scored in the Approaching or Below Expectations range. Students that scored in the Proficient category will be promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> grade without any additional action required.

For many of our students that scored in the approaching category, their path to promotion to 4<sup>th</sup> grade will only require parents to agree to tutoring throughout the next school year grade year based on score they received on a universal reading screener (50<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher). Other students with a score of 40<sup>th</sup> percentile or above on the screener may be promoted through an appeal process if parents choose that option – and must also agree to a year of free **tutoring next year**. For other approaching students, their path to 4<sup>th</sup> grade will include the **option** of attending **summer learning camp OR** participation in **tutoring** during their 4<sup>th</sup> grade year and must make adequate growth the next school year as determined by TDOE.

Students scoring in the Below category have a path to promotion by attending **both summer learning camp and** required participation in **tutoring** while in 4<sup>th</sup> grade next year. Students that have been previously retained in grades K-3, have a disability or suspected disability that impacts reading, or that are English learners with two years of instruction or less are **exempt** from 3<sup>rd</sup> grade retention. All 3<sup>rd</sup> graders have a pathway to promotion to 4<sup>th</sup> grade under the state law that became effective in 2023.

Our teachers have continued to work hard this year to provide our students with access to grade level standards established by TDOE. This was our fourth year of implementation of high-quality instructional materials that are aligned to state standards and state assessments for ELA.

Grainger County expanded our participation with TN ALL Corps and use of tutors during the 2023-24 school year to support our third-grade students. Twelve retired teachers were hired and began working with the students in September and continued through May. Many classroom teachers also tutored groups of students during their planning time. Students attended tutoring sessions two or three times a week for 30 to 45 minutes. During the sessions, students worked on a specific standard or skill that they had not mastered.

Our system also utilized an online platform again this year designed to support every learner on their path toward grade level success. By connecting to actionable, intuitive data provided by the platform, teachers and tutors know where to focus based on identified student needs and students become more capable and engaged. Classroom teachers and tutors used the information to plan instruction to meet the needs of students.

These initiatives are part of our system wide plan to **increase student ownership** of their learning. We've focused on what **students are doing** in the classrooms and making sure they **know what is expected** of them—and **why it matters**. We are proud of the accomplishments of our students, teachers, and leaders.

Mark Briscoe, Director of Schools