

October 1, 2019

Dear Harrison Elementary School Families:

Our entire team of teachers, school staff and leaders at Harrison Elementary School is committed to helping all children succeed. We monitor their academic progress regularly with classroom assessments, MAP tests, observations and student work so that we can support them individually in areas where they struggle and accelerate their learning in areas of strength.

Beginning at the end of third grade, elementary school students in Kentucky take state tests annually to determine if they have mastered the content they are expected to learn each year. Based on their performance on those tests, the Kentucky Department of Education rates each school.

New state and federal laws mean the accountability system has changed again this year. Along with this letter, we have included a flier to explain the new rating system with this letter.

There are three indicator scores which are combined to create one overall index. These include proficiency (for reading and math), a separate academic indicator (combining scores for 4th grade science, 5th grade social studies, and 5th grade writing), and a score for growth. According to the results made public today, our overall school score is 45.1, and I am pleased to announce that this score means our school is no longer designated as a CSI (Comprehensive Support and Intervention) school. This is very good news. Although we have a long way to go to reach proficiency, I believe that the Turn Around Plan we implemented last spring is already paying off. I know that our continued work and the supports provided by the Promise Academy will help us see tremendous gains this time next fall.

The new accountability model includes a star rating system as well. This year, the rating is determined solely on the KPREP score from last spring and our school has received only a one star rating. Our school is much more than just this test score. Our school is a happy place to work and learn. Harrison students work incredibly hard to meet their learning goals, and our staff goes above and beyond every day to meet the needs of each student. Other norm-referenced and reliable measures such as the MAP test show that our students make tremendous growth in reading and math each year. Last spring, for example, our students growth scores were on par with the district average at 63% and 65% respectively.

The Kentucky Department of Education has indicated that individual student reports will be sent to schools in the next month. When they arrive, each family with a child who was tested last spring will receive a report, along with information about how to interpret the results and help your child continue to grow.

Our families are crucial partners in fulfilling our promise to each student. I will be hosting a special achievement and assessment workshop for families during our Fall Bash on Wednesday, October 16th. At that time, I will share information about the new accountability system and our school's plan for success as we continue to work to ensure that all of our students achieve at their highest levels. Please look for more information from me about our progress soon. Right now, we will continue to analyze the data to learn more about how to help each child and our school be successful on KPREP. Thank you for all that you do and your support of Harrison Elementary.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Franks
Principal