



October 18, 2022

Dear Southern Elementary School Families:

Every student at Southern Elementary has individual gifts and talents, and our team is committed to helping them develop their strengths and overcome any challenges they face. Throughout the school year, we monitor student learning regularly and change our instruction to reinforce areas where they struggle and accelerate their progress in areas of strength.

Beginning at the end of third grade, elementary school students in Kentucky also take state tests each year to determine if they have mastered the content they are expected to learn. The Kentucky Department of Education evaluates schools and districts based on student performance on those tests, as well as other measures of success.

Due to the disruption of the pandemic, this is the first time since 2019 that the state has released test scores and accountability results. Since this is also the first year of a brand-new way to rate schools, we have included a flier with this email to explain the new system.

According to the results made public today, our school is considered a “low” school with the color rating of “orange.” We can celebrate growth in the areas of Writing and Science and we have already identified that Reading and Math achievement are our greatest areas of need. Due to an achievement gap between student subgroups, the state assigned our school a Targeted Support and Intervention label. For the 22-23 school year we have a laser focus on classroom instruction and providing supports for student needs in order to be successful. Two areas we can celebrate are students' perception of our school climate and safety. The majority of students feel as if our school is a warm and caring place and they feel safe coming to school. These two factors are significant when working towards mastery of academic content. With these two pieces of our school culture in place, we feel absolutely certain we can refine our instructional strategies to ensure all students learn and achieve at high levels.

This month, individual student test results will be mailed to the families of all students who took the Kentucky Summative Test last spring, along with information about how to interpret the results and help your child continue to grow. We care about the development of the whole child as we challenge them academically and encourage their mental and physical well-being.

Our families are crucial partners in this work. Teacher conferences are in the coming days and weeks and if you don't have an appointment yet, I strongly encourage you to meet with your child's teacher to learn more about how he/she is performing academically, socially, and emotionally. We are fortunate to have high quality instructional and

mental health resources at Southern, and we intend on maximizing every support we have to increase student achievement.

Thank you for everything you do to support the success of your children here at Southern Elementary School].

Sincerely,

*Leigh Ann McLaughlin*

Principal