



Our **F**uture, Our **C**ommitment, Our **S**tudents

January 9, 2006

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the mid-point of the school year, I believe this is a good time to take a careful look at your child's academic performance. Franklin County Schools is committed to your child's success in school and we are making a significant change in our testing calendar to promote higher achievement for all students.

I'm sure you know that each student in grades 3-8 must pass a state "End-of-Grade" (EOG) test to be promoted to the next grade. In the past, the EOG was given to students well before the end of the year, to allow time for two retests for those who did not pass. This cuts short the number of instructional days teachers have to prepare students before the test and does not allow enough remediation time after the test for those students who need the extra help.

Beginning this year, the EOG tests will be given the last two weeks of school. Students who do not pass will be required to attend summer school, which will start the middle of June. A retest will be given after two weeks of very focused summer instruction. Students who pass the retest will be promoted. Those who do not pass will continue in summer school for two additional weeks. A second retest will be given at the end of summer school. Students who do not pass the second retest will be retained at their current grade level.

This procedure helps ensure your child's success in school. *A student must be academically ready for the next grade level to be promoted.* Parents and teachers who believe a student should be promoted may appeal to a school-based waiver committee for a review of the student's work to determine promotion. Special rules apply to students with IEPs (Individual Education Plans) and to LEP students (those with Limited English Proficiency). Please see your child's teacher for information.

Students will be given practice tests before the EOGs to give them an opportunity to see what the test will be like and to let teachers know what skills students have mastered. Teachers can adjust their instruction to give their students the best chance of performing well the first time the test is given. We believe that fewer students will need summer remediation this year, but it is important to note that in order to avoid summer school, students will have to do well on the EOG the *first time* it is given.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or principal. This change in our testing schedule will only have its full benefit if you and your child understand the importance of the EOG tests.

Please accept my wishes for a successful and happy new year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Bert L'Homme
Superintendent

Esta carta esta tambien en español. Por favor pedirla a la maestro de su hijola.