



# SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY

P.O. BOX 391  
BARTOW, FLORIDA 33831

(863) 534-0500

1915 SOUTH FLORAL AVENUE  
BARTOW, FLORIDA 33830

August 24, 2009

To the Parent of:

## Board Members

CHAIRMAN  
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DISTRICT 2

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DISTRICT 3

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DISTRICT 5

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DISTRICT 6

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DISTRICT 7

C. WESLEY BRIDGES, II  
General Counsel

## Administration

GAIL F. MCKINZIE, Ph.D.  
Superintendent

Dear Parent,

Your child attends **Kathleen Elementary**, which receives federal Title I funds to assist students in meeting state achievement standards. Your child's school has not met these standards in reading and/or mathematics for two years. This school has been identified as a School in Need of Improvement.

Compared to other schools in the district, your child's school is performing **better** in **reading**, **math**, and **writing**. The table below shows the percent of proficient students in our school compared to other schools in the district and state.

% of Students Scoring Level 3 (Proficient) or Higher on FCAT			
SUBJECT	SCHOOL	DISTRICT	STATE
Reading	<b>64%</b>	55 %	62 %
Mathematics	<b>73%</b>	60 %	67 %
Writing	<b>&gt;95%</b>	93 %	94 %

## What are we doing about it?

Polk County School District is providing the following assistance and support to help the students at your child's school improve their academic achievement:

- Providing additional staff development and trainings for teachers
- Monitoring implementation of Learning Focused Strategies in our classrooms
- Implementing a high quality curriculum and effective tutoring for all students

**Kathleen Elementary School** is providing the following assistance and support to help the students at your child's school improve their academic achievement:

- Providing regular communication to parents regarding your child's skill level
- Offering an after-school tutoring program
- Providing high-quality curriculum and instruction by highly qualified teachers using effective teaching strategies with relevant detailed instructional materials
- Differentiated instruction for all student groups
- Holding parent-teacher conferences after each grading period and being available during the hours of 7:30-8:00am, 2:45-3:15pm
- Providing parents with frequent reports on their children's progress including report cards and interim reports as well as on-going assessment scores in reading, math, writing, and science FCAT/SAT 10 results
- Communicating daily in agenda planners and weekly in folders used to send home graded papers
- Specified grade level & vertical team planning time
- Providing parents who are approved Polk County School volunteers opportunities to volunteer in their child's school.

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**What can you do?**

You are very important to your child's education. We invite you to become more involved in your child's school by:

- Participating in parent involvement activities
- Becoming active in the development of the school improvement plan
- Monitor your child's attendance and student progress and make sure that homework is completed
- Monitor the amount of television child watches
- Promote positive use of children's extracurricular time
- Stay informed about children's education and communicating with the school by promptly reading all notices from the school or the school district, either received by children or by mail, and responding as appropriate
- Possibly serving on various policy advisory groups, such as the School Improvement Team, the School Advisory Committee (SAC), the District Wide Parent Involvement Team (PIT) or other school advisory or policy groups.

For more information about your child's school or other schools in the district, please contact **Lana Tatom** at **(863) 853-6030** or visit the Florida Department of Education's website at <http://schoolgrades.fldoe.org>.

Information regarding your child's teacher and paraprofessional qualifications will be provided to you in a timely manner upon request.

You have the right to request the following information:

- Whether the teacher has met the state licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction.
- Whether the teacher is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which state qualifications of licensing criteria have been waived.
- The baccalaureate degree major of the teacher and any other graduate certification or degree held by the teacher and the field of discipline of the certification or degree.
- Whether your child is provided services by paraprofessionals, and, if so, their qualifications.

You will be notified in writing if your child has been assigned or has been taught for more than four consecutive weeks by a teacher who has not met the *No Child Left Behind* "highly qualified" criteria. The information regarding the qualifications of your child's teacher and/or classroom paraprofessionals may be obtained from your child's principal.

Please be assured that the Polk County School District is dedicated to providing your child a quality education.

Sincerely,

Gail F. McKinzie, Ph.D.  
Superintendent