



SCHOOL BOARD OF POLK COUNTY

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August 24, 2009

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Superintendent

To the Parent of:

Dear Parent,

Your child attends **Ben Hill Griffin 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 six years. This school has been identified as a School in Restructuring and must implement the plan for restructuring the school. This plan includes our district increasing district oversight and implementing Learning Focused Strategies in our school.

Compared to other schools in the district, your child's school is performing **better** in reading, **writing**, and **math**. 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	72%	55 %	62 %
Mathematics	64%	60 %	67 %
Writing	94%	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

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

- Developing a plan to monitor students' progress
- Providing an after school tutoring program in reading and math
- Morning homework assistance and open computer lab
- Planners are provided to increase home/school communication.

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:

- Attending educational workshops
- Reading to your child
- Checking your child's planner daily
- Monitor your child's academic progress by reviewing WebGrades and bi-weekly progress reports.

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For more information about your child's school or other schools in the district, please contact **Patti McGill** at **(863) 635-7820** 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