



# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF LEE COUNTY

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SUPERINTENDENT  
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BOARD ATTORNEY

Dear Parents,

For over a decade, the release of school grades by the Department of Education has received far more public dialogue than the event warrants. Since its inception, the grading formula has failed to capture the complete picture of what happens in our schools each day and yet it has managed to dominate conversations about the apparent success or failure of a school. As we anticipate the release of school grades this week, I encourage you to look beyond any grade the state has assigned to your child's school and focus on the learning for your child.

The most important conversation to have with your classroom teacher is about your child's progress in reading and math. Your child should demonstrate steady learning gains throughout the year. Not all students will progress at the same rate as their peers, so try to avoid comparing your child to other students. Look at where your child started at the beginning of the year and look at where they are in their learning at this time – this is the best measure of their progress.

Grades have become an important part of our academic system, but we must acknowledge that our students are more than a grade. Grades do not always capture personal effort, personal struggles, life events, or a child's character, and they are simply unable to capture a student's hopes, dreams and aspirations. Your child is more than a grade. As such, encourage them in all that they do and expect them to do their very best. Likewise, your child's school is more than a grade. Encourage your teachers in all that they do and work alongside them for the benefit of your child.

As always, it is a pleasure and privilege to lead your school district.

Sincerely,

Gregory K. Adkins, Ed.D.  
Superintendent