

Dear HES Stakeholders,

The purpose of this letter is to give you an update on the progress of our 2023-24 school year. State school ratings were recently released, and we were saddened to see there was a decline of less than 1 point on our ESSA score, which is comprised of 3 categories - Growth (50%), Achievement (35%), and School Quality and Student Success (15%).

Current state rating: still an F, according to the state's criteria. Our scholars' biggest struggle - **READING**

A couple of steps we've taken to increase our school quality:

- Retained and hired more highly qualified, experienced staff
- Invested in more resources and training for our literacy curriculum and the state's RISE Science of Reading initiative.

I want to say **THANK YOU** to our families for entrusting us with your scholar(s). Our enrollment has continued to increase over the past 2 years. 90% of our staff members with children grades P-5 have chosen HES as the place for their scholar(s) to receive an education; that speaks volumes! The state's rating is an F, but that is far from our mindset. Our staff is working hard to meet the deficits of our scholars. We are taking time to grow relationships, assess where our scholars are, and then intervene to get them where they need to be. It's 'all hands on deck' and we celebrate our victories - big or small - all along with way.

How can you help?

- **scholar attendance** (part of the 15% SQSS portion of our ESSA score. So far, we have accomplished 90%+ attendance every single week since the start of school! That's HUGE!! Keep up the efforts to get our scholars to school on time. We get points for each scholar who is present 95% of the time. We want each scholar to be a Panther H.E.R.O (Here, Everyday, Ready, and On time).
- **read to our scholars**. We all know we naturally become better at the things we practice the most! Scholars should be reading for at least 15-20 minutes every night.
- **be involved**. Research shows scholars perform better when their parents are involved in their education. We have already seen an increase in parental involvement. Continue to read texts, check our website and Facebook page. Join our PTO. Check your scholar's backpack for school communication. Listen to scholars when they talk!

We are working extremely hard to increase the quality of education here at HES.

With a small community school like ours, the proficiency of one scholar makes a 5-10% difference, alone.

Every.Single.Scholar.Matters. Change doesn't happen overnight, but we are committed to the work. Thank you for trusting our process. Thank you for being a part of our process that will lead us to adequate progress. Our scholars LOVE coming to school, and that, if nothing else, is a sign that we are moving in the right direction.

Kind Regards,



Erikka Johnson

Score breakdown & Plan

[Click for details](#)

Harris Elementary School