HANCOCK COUNTY SCHOOLS

P.O. Box 1300, New Cumberland, WV 26047 (phone) 304-564-3411, Ext. 8 (fax) 304-564-9034 boe.hancock.k12.wv.us

BOARD OF EDUCATION
Chris Gillette, President
Ed Fields, Vice President
Randy Swartzmiller
Jim Horstman
Jack Crow

Superintendent, Mr. Walt Saunders
Director of Student Services, Mrs. Kristin Bissett
Director of Facilities & Maintenance, Mr. Kasey Arnott
Coordinator Supplemental Services & Transportation, Mr. Edson Arneault
Director of Child Nutrition, Mr. Steve Govey
Director of Technology/WVEIS Contact, Mr. Steve McKinney
Director of Special Programs/Pre-K, Mrs. Erica Sauer

Dear Families,

Over the past two years, our district has been working diligently to implement the requirements of the West Virginia Third Grade Success Act, a law designed to ensure every child builds strong foundations in reading and math during the early grades. This initiative focuses on providing high-quality instruction, early interventions, and strong family partnerships to help all students succeed.

We are excited to share that we are now entering the final phase of implementation. This means that all the supports outlined in the Act—such as benchmark assessments, individualized improvement plans, and extended learning opportunities—are fully in place. Beginning with the 2026–2027 school year, the Act will require that third-grade students who do not meet grade-level expectations in reading or math receive additional support, which may include repeating third grade unless an exemption applies.

Our goal is to work together with families to prevent retention whenever possible by addressing learning needs early and effectively. You will continue to receive updates about your child's progress and ways you can support learning at home.

Thank you for partnering with us to give every child the best start possible. If you have any questions or would like more information about the Third Grade Success Act and what it means for your child, please contact your school principal or teacher. You can also visit https://wvde.us/academics/early-elementary-education/third-grade-success-act for more information and answers to frequent questions.

Sincerely,

Erica Sauer

Erica Sauer, Director of Special Programs