

From: on behalf of Olmsted Falls City Schools - Office of the Superintendent <illoyd@ofcs.net>
Sent: Wednesday, October 28, 2015 3:57 PM
To:
Subject: K-3 Literacy Score Information

Dear Parents:

I am emailing to personally update you on a situation we have been working through regarding data connected to our District's K-3 Literacy Score on the 2013-2014 report card. This new K-3 Literacy Score is designed to use test scores to measure whether students are on-track in reading skills for their grade level each year. While we believe reading progress is more than a test score, the K-3 Literacy Score was a new component added to the 2013-2014 Local Report Card issued to all Ohio school districts by the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) last April 2015. This measurement compares student reading scores from one school year to the next to ensure students are progressing on-track in reading. The data featured in the first reporting of the K-3 Literacy Score last spring compared student reading data from the 2013-2014 school year to student reading data from the previous 2012-2013 school year.

We were very surprised to see that Olmsted Falls City Schools had received a "D" grade for our initial K-3 Literacy Score when report cards were released and immediately began work to identify why. We determined that the source of the problem was related to erroneous student data uploaded to ODE's website. Instead of uploading data from 2013-2014 (to be compared to 2012-2013), the wrong data file was saved by mistake resulting in data from the previous 2012-2013 school year being submitted in error.

The District contacted ODE with concerns about the accuracy of the data that had previously been submitted, but were told the reporting period had closed and could not be corrected. While ODE cannot physically change the grade for our District's 2013-2014 K-3 Literacy Grade, ODE has promised to take steps to ensure that this data inaccuracy is noted online so that public users of the Ohio School Report Card database will be aware that the data used to arrive at the currently posted grade is inaccurate – and, therefore, the grade itself is inaccurate. ODE has advised us that making such a notation to a specific report card indicator page is a process that takes some time. We anticipate the note being added within the next few weeks.

Olmsted Falls City Schools has submitted a Corrective Action Plan along with the correct 2013-2014 data for students in grades 1-3. This corrected, resubmitted data will be used for all future K-3 Literacy Score analysis moving forward. (Please note: reading data for kindergarten students was correct in the original submission.) We anticipate the release of the next Ohio Report Card sometime this January, and expect to see an accurate and improved grade on our K-3 Literacy Score – when the new report card for 2014-2015 is released.

Attached to this email you will find an official letter from ODE providing confirmation of this situation.

I want to personally assure you that procedures have been put into place to make sure this kind of submission error will not happen again in future. Our K-3 literacy program has been and continues to be a strength for our district. I encourage you to contact me personally with any questions and/or concerns.

Sincerely,

Dr. Jim Lloyd



**Department
of Education**

John R. Kasich, Governor
Dr. Richard A. Ross, Superintendent of Public Instruction

October 26, 2015

Dear Ms. Cogan,

After the release of the 2014 K-3 Literacy letter grades in April 2015, Olmsted Falls (046573) contacted the department with concerns about the accuracy of the district's 2014 diagnostic data reporting in EMIS. At the time that discussion occurred, the 2014 EMIS reporting window in which diagnostic data is reported had closed, the 2014 K-3 Data Appeals process had been completed, and the 2014 K-3 Literacy letter grades had been released. Thus, the department was unable, at that time, to allow the district to resubmit corrected diagnostic data. Rather, we requested that Olmsted Falls submit a Corrective Action Plan detailing the reporting error and outlining a plan to ensure that the reporting error was not repeated in future years.

I am writing to you today to acknowledge the department's receipt of Olmsted Falls' 2014 EMIS Corrective Action Plan in May 2015. Based on the information provided to us in the Corrective Action Plan documentation, my understanding is that, during 2014 EMIS reporting, Olmsted Falls submitted the incorrect diagnostic results data for fiscal year 2014. This issue is now noted in our records and we will take appropriate steps to ensure that it is noted for public users of the Ohio School Report Cards.

Thank you for alerting the department to your concerns regarding the diagnostic results and for completing the 2014 Corrective Action Plan. We appreciate your expressed commitment to ensuring the accuracy of Olmsted Falls' data, as well as your plans to improve upon the processes that contribute to quality data reporting.

Thanks,
Heather

Heather Boughton, Ph.D.

Director

Office of Data Quality

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