

# DECATUR COUNTY SCHOOLS

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## THE BEARCAT WAY

PROUD  
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PROMISING  
FUTURE

SUPERINTENDENT  
TIM COCHRAN

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENTS  
APRIL ALDRIDGE, Ed.D.  
JOHN WOODEN, Ed.S.

August 4, 2017

Dear Parent(s)/Legal Guardian(s):

The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) signed on December 10, 2015 reauthorizes the 50 year old Elementary and Secondary Education Act, the nation's national education law and longstanding commitment to equal opportunity for all students. ESSA provisions to help ensure success for students and schools include advancing equity for disadvantaged and high-need students, requiring high academic standards to prepare students to succeed in college and careers, providing vital information to families, educators and communities through annual state wide assessments, as well as other provisions.

Georgia's Single Statewide Accountability System is the College and Career Readiness Performance Index (CCRPI). The CCRPI will serve as a comprehensive report card for all schools in Georgia. The state system will give parents, students, teachers and families a more complete and comprehensive picture of where a school or district is meeting performance expectations or where it is not. CCRPI reports can be found by accessing the Georgia Department of Education website at [www.gadoe.org](http://www.gadoe.org).

Your child attends Elcan-King Elementary which receives Federal Title I funds to assist students in meeting state achievement standards. If at any time you wish to receive additional information regarding your child's performance on state assessments beyond that which is provided immediately following the assessment, please contact us.

Elcan-King Elementary continues to make progress in a number of areas due to the hard work of our teachers. The instructional staff is ready for the coming school year and is prepared to give your child a high-quality education. As a Title I school, we must meet federal regulations related to teacher qualifications as defined in the Every Students Succeeds Act. The regulations allow you to learn more about the professional qualifications of your child's teacher(s) and paraprofessional(s). We are happy to provide this information to you at any time you may ask. The following information may be requested:

- Whether the student's teacher –
  - Has met State qualification and licensing criteria for the grade levels and subject areas in which the teacher provides instruction;
  - Is teaching under emergency or other provisional status through which State qualification or licensing criteria have been waived; and
  - Is teaching in the field of discipline of the certification of the teacher.
- Whether the child is provided services by paraprofessionals and, if so, their qualifications.

Please contact Jennifer Wilkinson, Principal, at 229-248-2212 or Mr. John Wooden, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources at 229-248-2806, for this information.

Elcan-King Elementary's staff is committed to helping your child develop the academic knowledge and critical thinking he/she needs to become college and work ready. That commitment includes making sure that all of our teachers and paraprofessionals are highly skilled and we are proud to report that all of our staff is professionally qualified. Parents will be notified in a timely manner if their student has been assigned or taught for 4 or more consecutive weeks by a teacher who has not met subject or grade level requirements for professional qualifications.

Parent and Family Engagement play an important part in every child's success. Parent Involvement Plans and Parent/Student/School compacts are distributed to every parent at the beginning of the year. Parent resource centers are located at the school and district level and are available to parents to check parent portal or to obtain resources for students. Monthly Parent and Family Engagement Newsletters are provided to inform parents of workshops and events occurring throughout the district.

Parent volunteers and chaperones provide a valuable resource and result in positive experiences for students, families and schools. All volunteers and chaperones must complete an initial training and background check followed by annual online updates. Upon completion of training, a picture id badge will be issued annually before a parent or guardian may serve as a volunteer, chaperone, or accompany students on a school trip. Training must be completed at least two weeks in advance of the time scheduled to volunteer or chaperone. For more information, visit the Decatur County Schools website and access the "For Parents" tab.

Elcan-King Elementary School is committed to ensuring that your student is provided a quality education through the ongoing implementation of the Georgia Standards of Excellence. Excellence, Engagement, and Accountability for all is being achieved by the educational team at this school and throughout the district. Achievement of District AdvancED Accreditation supports our vision for continuous school improvement.

Please feel free to contact Jennifer Wilkinson, Principal, at 229-248-2212 should you have additional questions about your child's school or academic progress. Additional information can also be viewed on the district website, [www.dcboe.com](http://www.dcboe.com), by clicking the Federal Programs link. We look forward to a successful 2017-2018 school year.

Sincerely,



Tim Cochran, Superintendent

Jennifer Wilkinson, Principal