



## DICKSON COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION

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### Ensuring Success Through "Well Checks"

Dear Parent(s):

As our children grow, most of us see charts. Our doctors weigh our children and measure how tall they are. This information is put on a chart. This chart shows where our child stands compared to other children and how fast he/she is growing. These charts help doctors to understand if our children are growing properly or if something may be wrong, enabling them to do something to help as soon as possible.

Doctors use children's height and weight as "Well Checks" or vital signs of development. We all know how important it is for our children to "grow" in reading and math as well. In fact, successfully learning to read at an early age is probably one of the most important factors in a child's learning, both inside and outside of school.

Because reading and math are so important, on a regular basis, our school is going to give you "Well Check" information indicating how well your child is performing. We now know what the benchmark goals of the reading and math "Well Checks" should be and will give this information to you three times per year. Generally, the first "Well Check" is given within the first few weeks of school.

The "Well Checks" are simple and accurate. The "Well Checks" take less than 20 minutes. We like to think of it as taking your child's reading and math temperature.

Teachers will use these "Well Checks" to help them plan their reading and math instruction. This information will also help them individualize for students who are above or below average in their reading and math abilities. The "Well Check" information for your child will be put on a chart, and your child's teacher will explain it to you at conference time.

In January (Winter), your child's teacher will do another "Well Check" to see if an improvement in your child's reading and math ability has been made.

These reading "Well Checks" will be done again during the last several weeks of school (Spring) and the results will be shown to you. We will then be able to inform you of how much reading and math growth your child has made throughout the year and what may be needed in order for your child to become a truly successful student.

As a school staff, we are excited about our ability to know where all of our students are on their path to being successful readers and learners. We hope that you are excited as well. We also look forward to seeing and talking with you regarding the progress of your child.

If you would like to learn more about Fast Bridge testing, please visit [www.Fastbridge.org](http://www.Fastbridge.org) If you have any questions about our Reading Well Check Program, please feel free to contact me.

**Make It Count!**