

O'NEILL ELEMENTARY

BOARD NOTE

SEPTEMBER 2026

KICKING INTO GEAR!

Hello from the Elementary! We are now almost a month into school, and I am happy with the effort I am seeing from our staff and students. We have 388 students K-6 attending school this year and we are excited about this group of kids!

The beginning of the year brings quite a bit of assessment for all of our students. We assess our students using NWEA MAP, DIBELS Reading, and iXL Math & Reading Diagnostics. Student scores on these assessments help us create a baseline for where each student is starting the year. We also use these scores to help us with writing Individual Reading Improvement Plans, which came about due to LB 1081.



WHAT DO WE DO WITH THE DATA?

Our MTSS team is an important part of the implementation of LB 1081, because these are the people that break down our reading data. The purpose of LB 1081 is to identify struggling readers early, which is something we have already been doing at OES through our MTSS practice. Students have already been placed in reading intervention groups based on assessment data.

If a student is below grade-level threshold on the assessment used by the district, Acadience Reading, we will send home a note and an Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP). What I am most excited for is the portion of the IRIP that discusses how the family will help their child reach his/her reading goals. We already have a list of activities that we are planning on suggesting to parents/guardians of children who have IRIPs.

Over the course of the past few years, we have developed an evidence-based practice for incorporating interventions for all our students. The interventions are based on student needs and are proven to show growth. The main tools used for reading intervention are *Into Reading Interventions*, *Phonics for Reading*, and *UFLI*.

I would also like to commend the staff at the elementary school. We have met weekly to help tighten our ELA/Reading Instructional practices. This has been headed up by Mrs. Wiseman, who is doing a great job of leading!