



AMANDA JOERING ALLEY/STAFF
Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday talks to Nicole Davis, second- and third-grade teacher at Southgate Independent School, during his visit to the school Wednesday, Nov. 10.

Southgate talks space with education commissioner

By Amanda Joering Alley
ajoeing@nky.com

As part of his three-year tour of all 174 school district in Kentucky, State Education Commissioner Terry Holliday recently paid a visit to the county's smallest district, Southgate Independent Schools.

During a visit Wednesday, Nov. 10, Holliday and State Board member Judy Gibbons got a tour of the one-school district and had a chance to meet faculty, staff and students.

"This visit is a chance for us to show them where we're at and what kind of things we're working on," said Superintendent Jim

Palm. "Touring the school gives them an idea of our need for more space."

Last year, due to the construction of a large apartment complex on Moock Road, the school has seen a 40 percent increase in enrollment, causing them to buy mobile units to serve as classrooms for some students.

Palm said the school board has hired an architect and is in the process of purchasing land behind the school to build an addition, which will include four more classrooms.

During the visit, Holliday and Gibbons learned about the history of Southgate School, which began

more than a century ago in 1901.

"This is all so interesting," Holliday said of his visit. "I applaud the team here and the community for not letting this school die."

Holliday said his goal in touring all the state's districts is to get a better feel for what is going on in the schools.

"It's key to put places with names and clearly understand the challenges, large and small, that the districts face," Holliday said.

So far, Holliday has visited about 80 of the 174 districts and said he usually spends about two days a week doing visits.

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