



# LAKE MURRAY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

*The purpose of Lake Murray Elementary School is to educate, empower, and encourage students in a safe and nurturing environment.*

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To: Third Grade Parents/Guardians

Date: August 21, 2023

## Purpose of this Letter:

1. To help parents/guardians understand what South Carolina's Read to Succeed legislation says about reading requirements for third grade students and promotion to fourth grade.
2. To describe what the school will do to help children who are reading below grade level.



Reading is the core of the school day for young children because students need strong reading skills to learn in all other school subjects, such as science, social studies, writing, and math. By the end of third grade, students are expected to be able to read independently and comprehend a variety of grade-level texts based upon South Carolina College- and Career-Ready (SCCCR) Standards.

South Carolina law states, "Beginning with the 2017-18 school year, a student must be retained in the third grade if the student fails to demonstrate reading proficiency at the end of the third grade as indicated by scoring at the lowest achievement level on the state summative reading assessment [SC READY Reading]."

## GOOD CAUSE EXEMPTIONS

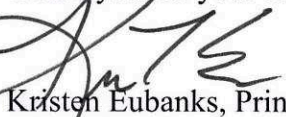
Students with disabilities, limited English proficiency, and those who have been previously retained may receive a "good cause exemption" and be promoted to the fourth grade even if they are not reading at the required level. Other good cause exemptions exist for students who scored poorly on the state summative assessment, but who have demonstrated grade-level reading proficiency on other tests or through a reading portfolio.

## SCHOOL-SPECIFIC INFORMATION

In our continuing effort to improve the academic performance of students, our school implements interventions to include Special Education and a program called Response to Intervention (RtI). Both models are designed to provide effective instruction to meet the needs of students using scientific, peer-reviewed, research-based interventions. These programs focus on improving the educational performance of students who are experiencing difficulty in the area of reading.

If you have specific questions pertaining to the information shared in this letter, please contact Anne Summers, Reading Coach at (803)476-4684.

Thank you for your continued support,

  
Kristen Eubanks, Principal