

Descriptor Term: LITERACY-BASED PROMOTION

Descriptor Code: IHEA

Rescinds:

Board Approved: 7/6/2021

Previously Approved: 7/7/2014

In compliance with the Literacy-Based Promotion Act, it is the intent of this school district to improve the reading skill of kindergarten through third grade students to ensure every student completing the third grade is able to read at or above grade level. Each kindergarten through third grade student's progression shall be determined, in part, using the student's proficiency in reading in the areas of phonemic awareness, fluency, and comprehension.

**Intensive Reading Instruction and Intervention:** Each kindergarten through third grade student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading at any time, as demonstrated through performance on an approved reading screener, statewide end-of-year exam, or approved alternate assessments shall be given intensive reading instruction and intervention immediately following the identification of the reading deficiency. Said screener must be approved by: the Mississippi Department of Education or locally by the Department of Instructional Programs.

**Parent Notification of Reading Deficiency:** The parent(s) or legal guardian(s) of a kindergarten through third grade student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading shall be notified in writing by the student's teacher immediately upon the determination of a reading deficiency, and subsequently with each quarterly progress report until the deficiency is remediated.

**Social Promotion Prohibited:** Social promotion in kindergarten through third grade is prohibited in this school district. A student may not be assigned a grade level based solely on the student's age or any other factors that constitute social promotion.

**Good Cause Promotion:** A third grade student who does not meet the academic requirements for promotion to the fourth grade may be promoted only for good cause, which shall be defined by the district's literacy-based promotion procedures.

A request for good cause exemptions for a third grade student from the academic requirements established for promotion to fourth grade shall be made consistent with the following:

1. Documentation shall be submitted from the student's teacher to the school principal which indicates that the promotion of the student is appropriate and is based upon the student's record. The documentation shall consist of the good cause exemption being requested and shall clearly prove that the student is covered by one (1) of the good cause exemptions as noted in the district's procedures.
2. The principal shall review and discuss the recommendations with the teacher and parents and make a determination as to whether or not the student should be promoted based on

requirements set forth by law. If the principal determines that the student should be promoted, based on the documentation provided, the principal shall make the recommendation in writing to the superintendent, or designee who, in writing, may accept or reject the principal's recommendation.

The parents of any student promoted may choose to have the student be retained for one (1) year, even if the principal and district superintendent or designee determines otherwise.

**Parent Notification of Third Grade Retention:** Written notification shall be provided the parent or legal guardian of any Third Grade student who is retained that the student has not met the proficiency level required for promotion and the reasons the student is not eligible for a good cause exemption.

**Annual Report:** Within thirty (30) days of final State Board of Education approval of state accountability results, the school board of this school district shall publish, in a newspaper having a general circulation within the school district, and report to the State Board of Education and the Mississippi Reading Panel

The superintendent or designee shall establish procedures to support this policy.

LEGAL REF.: MS CODE – Literacy Based Promotion Act, 2013