Reading Matters

A Parent Guide to Michigan's 3rd Grade Reading Law

1 What is the Law All About?

** In an effort to boost reading achievement, Michigan lawmakers passed Public Act 306 in October 2016

** To help more students be proficient by the end of 3rd grade, the law requires extra support for K-3 students who are not reading at grade level.

** The law also states that a child may be retained in 3rd grade if they are one or more grade levels behind in reading at the end of 3rd grade.

2 What Do I Need to Know as a Parent?

** Your child's reading progress will be closely monitored beginning in kindergarten.

** If your child is not reaching expected benchmark goals, a plan to improve their reading will be created. This means your child's teacher and school will work with your child to find where he/she needs support in their reading development and a plan will be created to support their reading development.

The plan will include:

- Extra instruction or support in the areas of need (provided during a scheduled time, in small groups or individually, assuring they are not missing any other instruction in another content area)

- Ongoing progress checks

- A read-at-home plan that encourages you and your child to read and write outside of school each day.



3 For Students in 3rd Grade:

** Starting in 2019-2020, your 3rd grade child will not be promoted to 4th grade unless he or she

- Receives a reading score of less than one year behind on the state assessment
- Shows a grade 3 reading level on another approved test
- Demonstrates a grade 3 reading level through a portfolio

** Good Cause Exemptions (Reasons why this law would not apply to your child) as stated in the legislation include:

- An IEP or 504 Plan
- Limited English proficiency and has received less than three years of instruction in an English language learner program
- Has been previously retained with two or more years of intensive intervention
- Enrolled in current district for less than 2 years without an IRIP (Individualized Reading Plan)

If you are notified that your child may be retained, you have the right to meet with school officials and to request, within 30 days, an exemption if it is in the best interest of your child. The district superintendent (or school official) will make the final decision and share it with you 30 days prior to the start of school.

4 What Can I Do to Support My Child?

Suggestions for all parents who want to help their child read well:

Read with your child ***EVERY DAY*** (even in the summer)

* Echo Read (You read a line, then they repeat)
* Choral Read (Read together at the same time)

- Reread and tell favorite stories/ Talk to your child about the stories you have read

As You Read:

- Ask questions about the story and stop to have them retell you what they have read so far.
- Talk about favorite parts, what you've learned, or who is in the book and what they are doing.
- Talk about the pictures and how they connect to the words on the page.

Additional Suggestions:

- Talk to your child A LOT– knowing more words helps kids to better understand what they read.
- Encourage writing– Let children write the sounds they hear; spelling is developmental and a work in progress
- Be involved in your child's education and support the reading plan if your child has one.