DARLINGTON COUNTY SCHOOL DISTRICT

October 20, 2026

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The South Carolina Read to Succeed Act, which became law in 2014, aims to improve literacy and reading proficiency for all children in our state. Legislative updates to Read to Succeed in March 2024 includes significant changes regarding promotion and retention of third grade students.

Section 59-155-160 of Read to Succeed states, *"Beginning with the 2024-2025 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 Does Not Meet Expectations or at the lowest achievement level on the state summative reading assessment."*

There are five retention exceptions to this requirement of Read to Succeed. Your child's Principal or Literacy Coach will be able to discuss these exceptions with you in greater detail. If a student does not qualify for one of the exemptions, the student may attend a summer reading camp. If the student demonstrates the necessary level of reading proficiency by the end of the camp, as demonstrated by a pre-determined assessment score, the student will be promoted to fourth grade. If the student is unable to demonstrate the necessary level of reading proficiency, the student will be retained in third grade.

Please be assured that our district's goal is for all students to become proficient readers. Schools have put academic supports in place to improve student success that include additional instructional time devoted to literacy, small group and individualized instruction and intervention, and specialized literacy training for classroom teachers from school-based literacy coaches.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact your school's Principal or Literacy Coach. You may also find information about the Read to Succeed Act on the South Carolina Department of Education website at http://ed.sc.gov/instruction/office-of-early-learning-and-literacy1/

Working in partnership with you, the district remains committed to seeing that your child successfully demonstrates proficiency on the end-of-year state reading assessment and advances to fourth grade. Please stay in communication with your child's teacher to monitor progress and identify additional ways that you can support your child's reading development at home.

Sincerely,

Principal