

Read By Grade Three



About the Law

In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed a law that requires schools to identify learners who are struggling with reading and writing and to provide additional help. We shared information with our parents about this legislation in previous communications, and would like to update you on key elements of the law.

This legislation requires that all K-3 students must be assessed during the first 30 days of the school year and 2 additional times throughout the year. Livonia Public Schools uses i-Ready Diagnostic and Fountas and Pinnell Reading Assessments to determine a child's reading level.

Students who are more than one grade level below on both assessments are given an Individualized Reading Improvement Plan with a plan for daily interventions to support the student's growth in reading. Parents who receive an Individualized Reading Plan also receive Reading Activities for Home.

The law states that third graders may be identified to repeat third grade if they are more than one grade level behind in reading beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

2019-20 Identification of Third Grade Students for Possible Retention

- The State of Michigan will identify students for retention by June 1, 2020, through a letter directly from the Michigan Department of Education.
- Students may be exempt upon request by their parent or teacher.
- A parent has the right to request a good cause exemption by contacting the school district within 30 days of receiving notice of retention. A good cause exemption must be approved by the Superintendent or her designee. There are a variety of Good Cause Exemptions, including having an IEP, limited English proficiency, or having already been retained. You will be personally contacted by your child's school if he/she has been identified, so that we may directly assist you with the request for exemption.

In Livonia Public Schools, we will be taking advantage of every good cause exemption that is allowable under the law.

- We do not believe that repeating third grade is in the best interest of our students who are more than one grade level below in reading. Research is clear that retention is not an effective remediation, but instead a regressive option for our children.
- We do believe that providing them additional support, over and above what they received prior to and during their third grade year, is appropriate and necessary.

Our dedicated staff is fully committed each and every day to helping our learners be successful. We look forward to continuing to partner together to support all of our students reading at grade level.

If you have additional questions, we invite you to contact your child's principal or our Chief Academic Officer, Theresa O'Brien at 734-744-2614.