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Unified School District

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2015 – 2016 School Year: Important Reading Information for K-3rd Grade Parents



August 25, 2015

Dear Parents,

This letter is to provide you with information on Arizona's Move On When Reading law and the importance it places on your child's ability to read at or above grade level. The MOWR law will apply to this year's **2015-2016 third graders**. Arizona Revised Statute § 15 - 701 states that if data on the third grade statewide reading assessment is available at the end of the 2015-2016 school year and demonstrates that a student scored "falls far below" or the equivalent level on the new AzMerit assessment the student shall not be promoted from the third grade.

There are three exemptions from ARS §15-701. In accordance with the law, a school district governing board or the governing body of a charter school is allowed to promote a student who earns a score of "falls far below" on the third grade statewide reading assessment only for the following three reasons:

- i. A third grade student is an English Language Learner or Limited English Proficient who has received less than two years of English instruction; or
- ii. A third grade student with disabilities has an individualized education plan (IEP), and the IEP-team, which includes the student's parent/guardian, agrees that promotion is appropriate; or
- iii. A third grade student is in the process of a special education referral or evaluation for placement in special education and/or students that have been diagnosed as having a significant reading impairment, including dyslexia. (Dyslexia is defined as, a brain-based learning difference that impairs a person's ability to read and spell that is independent of intelligence and that typically causes a person to read at levels lower than expected.)

Amendments to S.B. 1461 can be found at the following website:

<http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/52leg/1r/adopted/s.1461edu.pdf>

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact your child's teacher or principal.

Sincerely,

Dr. James R. Veitenheimer
Superintendent

SUPERINTENDENT
Dr. James R. Veitenheimer

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