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Read By Grade 3 Parent Information

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. The law states that third graders may repeat third grade if they are more than one grade level behind beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. These Facts for Families help families understand the Read by Grade Three Law so they can support their child.

How is my child identified as having a reading concern? Assessments are given to all children who are in Kindergarten through Third grade within 30 days of the first day of school. An Individualized Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) will be written for all learners who have been identified through these assessments as having a reading concern.

When is an Individualized Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) developed?

An IRIP is developed following identification of a reading concern within 30 days of the screening assessment. The IRIP is developed with the help of teachers, the principal, parent or legal guardian, and anyone else that the team agrees needs to be involved. Your child will remain on an IRIP as long as there is a reading concern. Your child will be assessed several times through the year to check on their progress. IRIPs should be updated to reflect the needs of your child.

What if my child's reading does not improve?

Your child will take the M-STEP in the spring of their third-grade year. The M-STEP is the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress. The M-STEP measures what your child should be able to know and do. If your child scores one or more grade level behind the third-grade reading level, then a notification will be generated for you and your child's school that your child **may** be retained.

When do I get notification that my child may be retained?

If your child's reading score on the English Language Arts M-STEP is more than one year below grade level, you and your child's school will be notified by June 1 of that school year.

What is a Good Cause Exemption in the Read by Grade Three Law?

Parents/legal guardians have the right to request a good cause exemption. These requests must be made in writing to the school district within 30 days after the date of the notification. Forms will be located on the PCCS website. The parent or legal guardian has a right to request a meeting with the school to discuss the retention requirement and the standards and processes for a good cause exemption.

The state has identified the following as allowable Good Cause Exemptions:

1. The student has an individualized education program or Section 504 plan (based on federal law), whose team decides to exempt the student from specified retention requirements.
2. The student is a limited English proficient student who has had **less than** three years of instruction in an English language learner program.
3. The student has received intensive reading intervention for two or more years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading **and** was previously retained in Kindergarten, Grade 1, Grade 2, or Grade 3.
4. The student has been continuously enrolled in the current school district for less than two years and there is evidence that the student was not provided with an appropriate Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) by the previous school.
5. The student's parent or guardian has requested a Good Cause Exception within the required time period and the superintendent, chief administrator, or designee determines that the exemption is in the best interest of the student.
6. Student is proficient in all subjects except reading.
7. Satisfactory portfolio completion by student.
8. The teacher requests with supporting documentation.

When will I find out if my child is being retained after I ask for a Good Cause Exemption?

Your child's school needs to have a decision on retaining your child 30 days before the first day of school. This decision is made by the school principal and/or superintendent and is a final decision.

When do I need to talk to the school if I don't agree with the decision to retain my child?

If you do not agree with the decision, you should request a meeting with your child's school and file a Good Cause Exemption within 30 days of receiving a notice regarding potential retention. Your child's school must make themselves available to discuss your child's progress.

Where can I get more information?

Plymouth-Canton Community Schools will have additional information on their website as of January 1, 2020. You can also reference the State of Michigan Parent Resources for the Read by Grade Three Law at:

https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_74161-498394--,00.html