

January 2018

Dear Parents of Kindergarten, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Grade Students:

I would like to share some important information about *Arizona's Move on When Reading* (MOWR) legislation, the importance it places on your child's ability to read at grade level, and the impact it has on third grade promotion and retention.

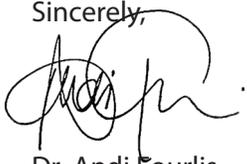
Arizona Revised Statute §15-701 mandates that a 3rd grade student who obtains a score on the reading portion of the 3rd grade AzMERIT exam, demonstrating that he or she is **reading far below third grade level** will not be promoted to 4th grade until sufficient progress is made to demonstrate that the student is reading proficiently.

There are four exemptions to retention in ARS §15-701. In accordance with the law, a school district may be permitted to promote a student who fails to meet the cut score on the reading portion of the 3rd grade AzMERIT exam for any of the four following reasons:

- A third grade student is an English Language Learner or is Limited English Proficient and has received fewer than two years of English instruction; or
- 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
- 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; or
- A third grade student has demonstrated or subsequently demonstrates sufficient reading skills or adequate progress towards sufficient reading skills of the 3rd grade reading standards as evidenced through a collection of reading assessments approved by the State Board.

Mesa Public Schools recognizes the important role of parents in a child's education and we value the collaborative partnership between home and school. Our district offers a comprehensive reading curriculum, strategies to monitor the progress of each child and individual student intervention systems that are built into daily instruction. You will be kept informed of your child's progress on a regular basis by your child's classroom teacher. Additional information on Arizona's Move on When Reading legislation can be obtained at www.azed.gov/mowr or you may contact your child's principal.

Sincerely,



Dr. Andi Furlis
Assistant Superintendent