



Dear K-3rd Grade Parents/Guardians,

This letter is to provide you with information on Arizona's *Move on When Reading* legislation and the importance it places on your child's ability to read at or above grade level by the end of 3rd grade. Arizona Revised Status §15-701 states that if student scores below the cut score on the reading portion of the 3rd grade AzMERIT exam, he/she will not be promoted to 4th grade until sufficient progress is made to demonstrate that the student is reading proficiently.

There are four exemptions from ARS §15-701. In accordance with the law, a school district governing board or the governing body of a charter school is 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:

- (i) A third grade student is an English Language Learner or Limited English Proficient who has received fewer 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.)
- (iv) 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.

Additional information about Arizona's *Move on When Reading* legislation can be obtained at www.azed.gov/mowr. If you have questions or need information please contact:

Tamara Becker, Assistant Superintendent of Instructional Support
480-461-3200 ext. 10633
tbecker@edkey.org