

Dear Parents or Guardians,

Being a good reader is critical if a student is going to be successful in school. In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed the Read By Grade Three law to ensure that students exit 3rd grade reading at or above grade level. **This law will affect all 2019-20 Begin-a-garten, Kindergarten, 1st grade, 2nd grade, and 3rd grade students.** In accordance with this law, and as a means of better informing classroom instruction, districts will be providing BK-3 assessments to students across the state. These assessments will identify students who need intensive reading instruction and intervention and will also provide useful information to help teachers tailor instruction to meet individual student needs.

BK-3 students will be assessed at the beginning and end of the school year. The law also requires districts to provide early and regular written communication with parents of BK-3 students with reading difficulties. Communication will include information about current services being provided, additional reading supports planned for your child, and strategies for you to help your child at home (Read-At-Home plan).

In **2019-2020, all 3rd grade students** will be required to take a standardized state assessment at the end of the year to determine promotion to 4th grade. The **retention component of this legislation will go into effect for 2019-2020 3rd graders.** Retention will be based on 3rd grade Spring 2020 state ELA assessment performance.

MDE has released the Read By Grade Three retention cut scores:

RBG3 Category	Cut Score	Response
1	1252 or lower	Subject to the retention policy and will be given the resources and supports below*
2	1253-1271	Additional reading supports are recommended, <i>not required</i> (not subject to retention policy)
3	1272 or higher	Meets the Grade 3 reading requirement (not subject to retention policy and additional needs or supports can be determined at the local level)

We have excellent instruction at North Branch Elementary and few students will be impacted by this legislation. Those who could potentially be impacted by this legislation will more than likely receive a good cause exemption due to special education status, 504 plan or other factors of exemption consideration. CEPI, a Michigan reporting system, will mail a notification to the parents of the student within 14 days of receiving the student assessment results.

We will continue to support students who fall into the "recommended support" range (see above) as they progress to Grade 4.

Reading instruction must be a major focus in grades BK-3. Students need strong reading skills in order to learn in all other school subjects, such as science, history, writing and math. Much work is being done to ensure the success of our BK-3 students.

For more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/RBG3parents> or do not hesitate to reach out to me to discuss any questions you may have about this new legislation.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Theresa Rae

NBE Literacy Coach
trae@nbbrncos.net