October 13, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Person County Schools would like to communicate to parents/guardians of third-grade students the Read to Achieve legislation enacted by North Carolina’s General Assembly. North Carolina general statutes establish the NC Read to Achieve Program (RtA). The program requires the State Board of Education (SBE) to create a comprehensive plan for reading achievement. The components of the plan include:

- All students entering kindergarten are required to receive a developmental screening in early language, literacy, and math skills. This screening is called the Early Learning Inventory (ELI).

- Students in grades K-3 must be assessed with valid, reliable, formative, and diagnostic reading assessments. The state-provided reading diagnostic reading assessment used is called mClass Dibels 8 by Amplify.
  - These assessments are to be used to identify and assist students demonstrating difficulty with reading development, including offering reading camps as an option to students in grades first through third.

- A student must be READING retained in the third grade if not demonstrating reading proficiency on the third-grade standardized test of reading comprehension (NC End of Grade Test) but may be promoted if the student qualifies under certain exemptions or if the student demonstrates reading comprehension on an alternative assessment. RtA requires specific intervention. RtA requires specific interventions for students retained in third grade, including the option of a reading camp or transitional third-fourth grade classes, and the possibility of midyear promotion upon demonstration of reading comprehension.

Third Grade Students may be promoted if they do not pass the 3rd Grade Reading End of Grade Test (EOG) under one of the Exemptions below:

**Good Cause Exemptions**

Students may be exempt from mandatory retention in third grade for good cause but shall continue to be eligible to participate in reading camps and receive literacy interventions appropriate for their age and reading level. Good cause exemptions shall be limited to the following:

- Limited English Proficient students with less than two school years of instruction in the English as a Second Language program.
- Students with disabilities, as defined in G.S. 115C-106.3(1), and whose individualized education program indicates (i) the use of the NCEXTEND1 alternate
assessment, (ii) at least a two school year delay in educational performance, or (iii) receipt of intensive reading literacy interventions for at least two school years.

- Students who demonstrate reading proficiency appropriate for third-grade students on an alternative assessment approved by the State Board of Education.
- Students who demonstrate, through a student reading portfolio, reading proficiency appropriate for third-grade students. Student reading portfolio and review processes used by local school administrative units shall be approved by the State Board of Education.
- Students who have (i) received literacy interventions and (ii) previously been retained more than once in kindergarten, first, second, or third grades.

Third Grade Students may also be promoted if they do not pass the 3rd Grade Reading End of Grade Test (EOG) under one of the alternate assessments below:

- mClass Dibels 8 with a composite score of 445/725 Lexile level.
- iReady Reading Diagnostic with a scale score of 537/725 Lexile Level.
- Successful completion of a Reading Portfolio
- Passing the North Carolina Reading Beginning of Year test (BOG) with a scale score of 540 or higher.
- Passing the North Carolina Read to Achieve Test given after the NC Reading EOG test with a scale score of 439 or higher.

If third-grade students do not show reading proficiency using any of the above measures, they are encouraged to enroll in a reading camp provided by Person County Schools during the summer months. The primary goal of the reading camp is to provide continued reading instruction in order to give students additional opportunities to gain the literacy skills they need to be successful and to meet the promotion requirements of the Read to Achieve legislation.

If you have any questions concerning the Read to Achieve legislation, please contact your child's principal or teacher.

Sincerely,

Person County Schools