



Date: _____

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As part of our ongoing commitment to providing a high-quality education for all students in Louisiana, we want to inform you about an important policy affecting third-grade students' promotion to the fourth grade.

Importance of Reading Proficiency in Third Grade

The third grade is a critical phase for literacy development as it marks the shift in the purpose of reading (from applying basic reading skills to using reading as a tool for learning across all subjects). Research suggests that students who do not achieve proficient reading levels by the end of third grade are more likely to have ongoing difficulties in school, resulting in increased dropout rates and fewer students prepared for college and careers. Thus, improving proficiency rates and narrowing the achievement gap in third grade are prioritized in our public schools.

Louisiana Revised Statute 24.11

The Louisiana Legislature has enacted Act 422 of the 2023 Regular Legislative Session, which mandates that students in traditional public schools must meet specific literacy proficiency standards to be promoted to the fourth grade. Third-grade students who achieve a **well below composite score** on the DIBELS 8th literacy screener will **not** be promoted to the next grade level. Additionally, please note that third-grade students must also satisfy the requirements for promotion based on your local school system's pupil progression, including but not limited to passing grades and attendance.

Literacy Screening

The DIBELS 8th assessment will serve as the literacy screening tool to assess the literacy proficiency of third-grade students. DIBELS 8th evaluates various aspects of literacy, including phonemic awareness, alphabetic principles, accuracy, and fluency with connected text, as well as reading comprehension. The **composite score** provides a comprehensive measure of the students' literacy abilities. This screening tool not only meets legislative mandates but also aims to provide necessary support and resources to help each student succeed academically.



To ensure that every student has a fair opportunity to demonstrate readiness for fourth grade, there are three established assessment opportunities for students:

1. End-of-Year (EOY) benchmark in April
2. Second opportunity at the end of May
3. Third opportunity after optional summer learning program

Support and Resources

We understand that retention is a crucial decision, and we are committed to supporting every student in reaching their full potential. Additional information about the requirements, resources, and services will be provided by your child's school. Resources can also be accessed through the Louisiana Literacy Family Library; you can scan the QR code for more details. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's reading progress, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher. We are dedicated to supporting you and your child throughout this process.



Teacher Signature: _____

Date: _____

Principal (or designee) Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____