



Dearborn Heights School District No. 7

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Dear District 7 Families,

Dearborn Heights School District No.7 is committed to providing a high quality education for all students. Ensuring that students are proficient and skillful readers and writers is one of our highest district priorities. In 2016, the State of Michigan passed legislation that immediately impacts reading expectations for all students in kindergarten through third grade. This legislation became Public Act 306 and is referred to as the Third Grade Reading Law. This **Third Grade Reading Law** sets out standards for student achievement and guidelines to ensure students achieve grade level proficiency by the end of third grade.

District 7 Schools already has many of these required practices, assessments and early interventions in place across its K-3 literacy and reading programs, including regular assessments to identify each child's reading progress; individualized early interventions for struggling students; and partnering with parents and guardians to reinforce reading skills at home. The legislation requires these processes to be formalized and documented.

District 7's current K-3 reading assessment system includes -- MAP Growth Test (NWEA); Michigan Literacy Progress Profile (MLPP) and Fountas & Pinnell; -- all of which are on the state's list of approved assessments to support PA 306. Our initial assessment, NWEA, is administered at least three times a year, with this assessment taking place within the first 30 school days. Each elementary then reviews NWEA results to determine if any student requires additional assessments and services.

The new law also requires schools to develop an Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) for K-2 students who perform below grade level expectations on district-designated reading assessments. The plan is intended to address individual student needs by providing guidance for interventions at school and training and resources for parents to use at home. This parent resource is referred to as the Read at Home Plan.

Student assessment results will be shared with parents and guardians of kindergarten, first, and second grade students at Elementary Parent Teacher Conferences. Additionally, for those students who qualify for an Individual Reading Improvement Plans (IRIP), a draft of the plan will be discussed during the conference, with an opportunity for parent and/or student input. These plans will be monitored throughout the school year and communicated to parents.

Along with the required K-3 assessment system, Michigan's third grade reading assessment (currently the M-STEP) administered each spring. Beginning with the 2019-20, third grade students will have to meet the state's reading proficiency criteria and/or qualify for a good cause exemption as defined in PA 306, in order to be promoted to fourth grade. For further parent-friendly information regarding the Third grade Reading Law, read Facts for Families: What is the Read by Grade Three Law? This information is posted on the Michigan Department of Education's website under early Literacy, on our district website and on the district Facebook page as a link.

We work diligently as educators to ensure all students' social, emotional and academic needs are being met. As we know from experience, reading is the fundamental gateway to academic and lifelong success. The decision to retain a child is best made by the school staff, together with parents and with thoughtful consideration given to a variety of factors, including the student's learning data, physical, social and emotional well-being.

We will continue to work alongside our families and community members to ensure our students carry on the tradition of receiving a world class education. Should you have any questions please feel to contact me or Mr. Brock.

Educationally,

Jennifer Mast
Superintendent

Kevin D. Brock
Assistant Superintendent

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