



Abbeville County School District
A Model of Excellence in Education
Dr. Betty Jo Hall
Superintendent

August 29, 2017
Dear Parent/Guardian:

As you may be aware, the South Carolina Read to Succeed Act, which became law in 2014, aims to improve literacy and reading proficiency for all children in our state. The law includes some significant changes regarding promotion and retention of third grade students. Please note, these changes take effect this school year 2017–18.

The law states, “Beginning with the 2017-2018 school year, a student must be retained in the third grade if the student fails to demonstrate reading proficiency at the end of third grade as indicated by scoring at the lowest achievement level on the state’s summative reading assessment that equates to Not Met 1 on the SCReady Test of State Standards.” There are a number of exceptions to this requirement in the law.

GOOD CAUSE EXEMPTIONS: Some students with disabilities, limited English proficiency, and those who have been previously retained can receive a “good cause exemption” and be promoted to the fourth grade even if they are not reading at the required level. Other good cause exemptions exist for students who scored poorly on the state summative assessment, but who have demonstrated grade-level reading proficiency on other tests or through a reading portfolio.

Please be assured that our district’s goal is for all students to be proficient readers in third grade and for no student to be retained for failing to demonstrate reading proficiency. The district is putting supports in place to improve student success. These supports may include additional instructional time, small group and individualized instruction, and targeted interventions. Classroom teachers and school administrators are receiving specialized literacy training and support from school-based reading coaches and interventionists.

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact your school’s principal or your child’s teacher or me. My email address is jsmith@acsdsc.org You can also find information about Read to Succeed on the school district’s website at www.acsdsc.org and on the South Carolina Department of Education web page www.ed.sc.gov/instruction/read-to-succeed/.

Sincerely,

Jean Smith
Director of Instruction

Administrative Offices

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