Parent Guide to Public Act 306
3rd Grade Reading Law

April Delude (District Instructional Literacy Coach)
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Learning About the Law

- What is the law about?
- How will it affect my child?
- What do I need to know as a parent?
- What can I do to support my child?
The why behind the law...

• Michigan’s test scores on both the Michigan-based M-STEP ELA assessment and the NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) reading assessment have shown a need for attention to early reading and literacy.

• On the 2015 NAEP Michigan was 41st in the nation for 4th grade reading achievement.

• In an effort to boost reading achievement, Michigan lawmakers passed Public Act 306 in October 2016.
Michigan is not alone…

• Today, 30 states have “Third Grade” laws in place
• 32 million adults cannot read in the U.S. (14%)
  • 21% of adults read below 5th grade level
  • 19% of high school graduates cannot read
The Research is Clear...

- If children cannot read proficiently by the end of third grade, they face daunting hurdles to success in school and beyond. Third grade marks a pivot point in reading. (O’Brien, 2008).

- Struggling readers rarely catch up with their peers academically and are four times more likely to drop out of high school.
What is the law all about?

• To help more students to be proficient by the end of 3rd grade, the law requires extra support for K-3 students who are not at grade level in reading

• Requires that a child be retained in 3rd grade if they are not reading at grade-level by the end of 3rd grade
Schools must...

• Use tests in K-3rd grade to identify students that need extra help with reading. These students:
  • are at risk of not passing the M-STEP ELA in 3rd grade
  • are not reading at the expected level for his or her grade level and time of year

• Hazel Park administers:
  • Aimsweb (valid, brief, accurate prediction, progress monitor)
  • NWEA (adaptive...personalized to pinpoint students’ needs)
  • Fountas and Pinnell Benchmark Reading Assessment
Schools Must...

• If your child is identified as needing additional supports (extra help), your school will provide your child with an **individual reading improvement plan**.

• The teacher and school will work with your child to find where your child needs support in his or her reading development and create a plan to support him or her.
  • Extra instruction or support in areas of need
  • Ongoing checks on reading progress
  • A read at home plan
Our Hazel Park Blueprint...

- Hazel Park teachers work with ALL children to find where they need support in their reading development and create plans to support each and every student.
  - Extra instruction or support in areas of need
  - Ongoing checks on reading progress
  - A read at home plan
More about the “IRIP”

With an individual reading improvement plan:

• The extra supports will occur during the school day
• Your child will **not** miss regular reading instruction
• Your child may also be encouraged to participate in summer reading programs
Schools Must…

• Teachers will receive supports in evidence-based effective practices in teaching reading and writing

Supporting all learners to grow as readers and writers
How might this affect my child?

K-3

• This part of the law will apply when first graders (2017-2018) reach 3rd grade.
• A student **will not be promoted to 4th grade unless they:**
  • receive a reading score of less than 1 year behind on grade 3 ELA state assessment (M-STEP) or
  • show a grade 3 reading level on another test approved by superintendent of public instruction or
  • show a grade 3 reading level through a portfolio, or collection, of student work in all grade 3 ELA standards.
• A child will only be required to repeat 3rd grade **once**
How might this affect my child?  
3rd Grade

• You will be notified by the state and district if your child may be required to be retained
• You as a parent have the right:
  • to ask for a “good cause exemption” with the school or district within 30 days once notified
  • to request a meeting with school officials (principal, etc.)

You have the right and are encouraged to be involved every step of the way!
How might this affect my child in 3rd grade?

If your child repeats 3rd grade:
• Class will be with a highly rated teacher and/or reading specialist

• Most of the day will be spent on reading instruction but some 4th grade standards will also be taught

• Students will still have an independent reading improvement plan and get extra support

• Student progress will be closely monitored
Are There Any Exceptions?

Considerations may be made if your child:

- Has an **IEP or 504 plan**
- Is **English language learner** (second language learner)
- Has had intensive intervention for 2 years and was **previously retained**
- Has been **enrolled in current district for less than 2 years** and did not receive reading support
- Is grade level in all other subjects
- Is in the **best interest of the student and requested within 30 days**
Are There Any Exceptions?

• If a request is made, the district superintendent will make a decision in writing and notify parents.
• The decision will be shared at least 30 days before school begins.
• The decision is final.
What Can I Do to Support My Child?

• Read at home with your child daily with books they enjoy- even in the summer.

• Talk to your child about the reading.

• Talk to and with your kids a lot- knowing more words helps kids understand the words they read

• Encourage writing- Let children write the sounds they hear
Research Shows

“The single summer activity that affects learning most is Reading!”

Heyns 1978
Digital Texts and Resources

http://tumblebooks.com
http://www.storylineonline.net
http://starfall.com
http://abcya.com
http://www.oxfordowl.co.uk
http://kids.mel.org/
http://www.pbs.org/parents/education/reading-language/reading-activities/

For monthly tips, sign up for the Reading Rockets newsletter:
http://www.readingrockets.org/newsletters/extras