

Dear Parent/Guardian:

In June of 2012, the Ohio General Assembly and the Governor signed into law SB 316 that mandates the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. This legislation emphasizes reading instruction and intervention in the early grade levels. The Third Grade Reading Guarantee law impacts, parents, students, schools and districts in many ways.

The law requires all districts to:

- Administer a diagnostic reading assessment for each student Kindergarten through Grade 3 by September 30
- Send a letter to parents if their child is “Not On Track” with their appropriate grade level for reading
- Create an Individualized Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plan for all students who are “Not On Track” in their reading
- Provide intense reading intervention for the students “Not on Track” to help support student learning and growth in reading
- Retain students who do not reach the appropriate level of reading competency by the end of the third grade on the AIR Assessment or Vendor Assessment

Reading assessments are not new in Crestline Schools. Our classroom teachers have already completed individualized student assessments, and they are using those results to plan and instruct students at each student’s individual learning level. This year, our district used the Star Diagnostic and Ohio Diagnostic Assessments both to evaluate and monitor reading ability. Our district provides a variety of intervention supports in reading: Title I, Intervention Specialists, Reading Vocabulary, Total Phonics, Wilson Phonics, LLI-Leveled Literacy Intervention, and Intervention at Level. We believe that addressing reading concerns early is the best path to overall success.

All students entering the third grade must demonstrate a certain level of competency in reading before advancing to the fourth grade. This level will start between “Limited” and “Proficient” on the AIR Assessment in reading for grade 3. The AIR Assessment in reading for grade 3 was given in December and will be given again in April. Students achieving a score of 42 or higher will be promoted to the next grade level. Students receiving a score of 50 or higher will be marked as a proficient reader at the third grade level.

The students in our district that do not meet the score of a 42 or higher on the AIR Assessment will be given a Vendor Assessment (IOWA) in late March. This assessment is an alternate assessment that can be taken to achieve a promotion score for fourth grade.

We take our responsibility to support your child’s learning very seriously, and we are appreciative for your partnership in making sure that our students are well prepared, not only for assessments, but also

for their success in the future with college, careers, and the workplace beyond K-12 schooling. Please feel free to contact me if you have any further questions or concerns about the Third Grade Guarantee or Assessment.

Sincerely,

Julie Murphy-Theodore
Crestline Elementary Principal