Dear Parent or Guardian,

Being a good reader is critical if a student is going to be successful in school. In 2017, the Michigan Legislature implemented the Third Grade Reading Law to ensure that students exit 3rd grade reading at or above grade level, which will impact the current 2017-2018 first grade students by the time they are in 3rd grade. In accordance with this law, and as a means of better informing classroom instruction, districts will be providing K-3 reading assessments to students across the state. These assessments will identify students who need intensive reading instruction and intervention, and will also provide useful information to help teachers tailor instruction to meet individual student needs.

The law also requires districts to provide early and regular written communication with parents of K-3 students with reading difficulties. Communication will include information about current services being provided, additional reading supports planned for your child, and a read-at-home plan for you to help your child at home.

Reading instruction must be a major focus in grades K-3. Students need strong reading skills in order to learn in all other school subjects, such as science, social studies, writing and math. Much work is being done to ensure success of our K-3 students. Family involvement and understanding is an important part of this effort.


Highlights of the law include:

- A state approved reading diagnostic assessment will be administered to all K-3 students. In Walled Lake, we will continue with the iReady Diagnostic assessment, which has been in place for the past three years. For more on iReady, please visit http://iereadycentral.com/familycenter/

- Based on iReady results, as well as teacher and principal consultation, students identified as being one or more years below grade level will receive targeted literacy support through the development of an Individual Reading Improvement Plan.

- The Individual Reading Improvement Plan will contain specific skill areas that will be addressed and monitored through interventions and instructional support.

- Schools will provide a School to Home Reading Plan for identified students and offer parent resources to assist with home reading strategies.

- In compliance with the law at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year, 3rd grade students who do not demonstrate grade level reading proficiency on the state assessment, may be recommended for retention.

For a closer look at K-3 literacy instruction in Walled Lake, please review the Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy booklet available at http://literacyessentials.org.

I will be communicating updates and the potential impact on WLCSD in the coming weeks. Your child is in good hands with an exceptional elementary teaching staff that continues to provide a laser focus on literacy instruction for all students. Please do not hesitate to contact me, or your child’s principal, if you have any questions. We are here to help!

Sincerely,

Mark A. Hess

Executive Direction of Instruction, Technology, & Assessment