

Dear Brighton Families of Kindergarten - 3rd grade students,

In 2016, Public Act 306, also known as the "Read by Grade Three" legislation, was passed in an effort to ensure that students exit 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading at or above grade level. The legislation requires that districts administer reading assessments for students in Junior Kindergarten through third grade. In compliance with the legislation, we assess students' reading skills at least three times over the course of the year using Michigan Department of Education approved literacy assessments. This letter reviews the changes to our MTSS model and provides a Parent's Guide to PA 306 with tips to support your child in the area of literacy at home.

PA 306 ensures that all public school districts are identifying students in grades JK-3 who are performing below grade level in reading, based on one of the MDE approved screener assessments. The district is then responsible for providing additional reading support for students based on level of need. Progress monitoring tools will be used throughout the year to track the student's growth. Beginning in the spring of 2020, the legislation will require any student who is more than a grade level below on the state reading assessment to be considered for retention. Note: our current third graders will be the first cohort impacted by this legislation.

The legislation requires districts to create Individualized Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) in the fall for Junior Kindergarten through third grade students who may be at risk for not meeting grade level reading benchmarks. An Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) is the document that outlines how teachers will support students to help increase their reading proficiency. The legislation also requires parents are informed if their child is below grade level in the area of reading and that parents are part of IRIP process. After completing initial assessments at the beginning of the school year, district staff review student data and develop IRIPs for identified students who may need support in meeting the end of year grade level benchmarks. Buildings will be communicating this information to the appropriate parents when the plans are completed in November.

This first informational communication is going to all JK-3 parents and does not mean that your child is having any reading deficiency. Subsequent communication will be sent to parents of children performing below grade level in the days ahead. Your child's principal will be sending home additional information and a copy of the IRIP by November 15th. Parents will then be able to review and approve the plan. At that time, we will also be providing a "Read at Home" plan to help support reading growth for your child.

This legislation is certainly creating more formal and accessible documentation for our staff and parents. It also enhances accountability on behalf of your child's success. Ultimately, the law affirms the use of best practice initiatives already in place in Brighton keeping all BAS learners on track to reaching their full potential. Please look for further communication in the next few weeks, and if you have questions feel free to reach out to your child's principal and classroom teacher.

Thank you for your continued support of Brighton Area Schools,

*Elizabeth Mosher*

Elizabeth Mosher  
Assistant Superintendent of Instruction