

Student Academic Achievement**Reading Policy Regarding Promotion and Retention****Background:**

During the year 2001 legislative session, SB319 (Carter) was passed which repealed the mandatory retention of all students who read more than one grade level below grade placement and replaced it with a requirement to provide extra reading instruction to those students. A one-time mandatory retention for fourth graders at the end of summer school, if a two-year reading improvement plan does not result in the student being able to read at the third grade level was included in this legislation. Students who have Individual Education plans (IEPs) are exempt from this requirement.

In an effort to meet the intent of the law, the Knox County R-I Reading Policy Regarding Promotion/Retention guidelines will be applied when making the decision to retain or promote a student based upon the reading level of that student. These guidelines apply to the law mentioned above and are not meant to imply that reading level will be the only factor used when retention is considered. Board Policy 2520 outlines procedures to follow in other decisions regarding student promotion or retention.

Guidelines:

1. During the first five weeks in each school year, the reading level of all students in grades 3-6 will be determined. A variety of methods will be used to determine reading level including, but not limited to the results on the MAP, teacher observation, informal reading inventories, and comprehensive reading tests (such as the DIBELS, DRA, IRI, or Gates McGinite).
2. Parents of those students reading more than one grade level below their current placement will be notified in writing that their child has not met the standards established in SB319 and a parent conference will be required. At that conference or provided in writing, the promotion/retention policy and guidelines will be review with parents of students with reading deficient. A variety of options will be considered to increase the reading level of students not meeting this criterion.
3. A Reading Intervention Plan (RIP) to include a minimum of thirty hours of reading instruction or practice outside of the regular school day will be developed and implemented as soon as possible, but no later than the beginning of the second quarter to meet individual student needs. Progress will be monitored and parents will be kept informed of their student's progress.

All students will participate in a Reading Improvement Plan through the fourth, fifth, and sixth grade years or until they are reading within one year of their age group whichever occurs first. If a student is reading more than one year below his or her age group at the completion of sixth grade, a notation advising that this student has not met the minimal reading stands will be entered on his/her permanent record.

4. By the end of the fourth quarter, all students with an RIP or those who were recommended additional assistance, chose not to attend, will be retested to determine their reading level. All these students will have their records revised by a faculty committee consisting of the principal, reading teacher (s), and other faculty as identified by the building principal. This committee will either recommend that 1) the student attends summer school for further reading help and remediation, 2) be promoted to the next grade, but continue their RIP during the next school year, 3) be promoted to the next grade and removed from remediation, or 4) be retained. The findings of this committee will be shared with the parents.

5. Those students attending the remedial reading sessions during summer school and those who were recommended to attend, but chose not to, will be given a reading assessment during the last week of summer school. The law stipulated a mandatory retention of 4th grade students not reading at a third grade level at the end of summer school.

6. All students who transfer into the district in the fourth, fifth, or sixth grades will be assessed if they are determined to be reading below grade level.

Adopted: October 21, 2014

Knox County R-I School District, Edina, Missouri