**[School Newsletter Article on the Third Grade Reading Guarantee]**

**Note to Principal:**

*This article is suitable for your school newsletter if your school offers summer reading intervention to struggling third-grade readers, as well as the opportunity to take the summer OAA in July. (See item 3, below.)*

*If you also offer an alternative reading test sometime during the third-grade year that gives students another chance for a promotion score, you may want to add a paragraph saying so, after item 1. Be sure to describe what happens if a struggling reader does receive a promotion score on that test. We suggest you make your paragraph item 2 and renumber the items that follow it.*

**ARTICLE:**

**Update on Ohio’s Third Grade Reading Guarantee**

If you are the parent or family member of a third-grader who is struggling to read, this information on the Third Grade Reading Guarantee may help you know what to expect for your child.

The Third Grade Reading Guarantee says that to move to Grade 4, third-grade students must show that they can read at third-grade level by the end of their school year. Yet this law is not a guarantee to keep struggling readers behind. Instead it’s a promise to give each child the help he or she needs to succeed in Grade 4, where good reading skills become more critical for all kinds of learning. We always hope that if we provide this help and support, every child will be able to move to Grade 4 on schedule.

If your third-grader was found at the beginning of the school year to be reading below grade level, he or she is receiving that support now. How will you know, then, if your child will get to move to Grade 4 next fall? His or her scores on last fall’s state third-grade reading test and this spring’s state reading test will tell us that. The Third Grade Reading Guarantee requires us to use either the fall test score or the spring test score—whichever is highest—to decide whether your child is ready to move to Grade 4.

Your child has already taken the fall test. If he or she scored 392 or higher on that test, the child should be eligible to start Grade 4 in fall 2014.

If you have a third-grader who scoredless than 3*92* on fall state reading test, here’s what you need to know:

1. With continued reading help in the classroom and at home, **your child still has a chance to score at least 392 on the state’s spring reading test. Again, this is the score needed to be eligible to go to Grade 4.**

2. If your child’s score also scores less than 392 on the spring test, **there are summer reading options** that still may allow him or her to move to Grade 4 on schedule. One is a state reading test that will be offered this coming July. Also talk to us about summer reading programs that may help your child be promoted in the fall.

3. **If your child still does not catch up in reading, he or she will re-enter the third grade** to continue building third-grade reading skills. During that second year of third grade, your student will continue to get extra reading help. You may also want to ask if the new third-grade teacher thinks your child is able to do fourth-grade-level work in other subjects during the repeat year.

4. **If your child shows mid-way through that year that he or she is reading on grade level, your child may be able to advance to Grade 4, *if your district’s policy allows it*.** We call this “mid-year promotion.”

*5.* **Finally your child will repeat third grade for only one year if reading is the only issue.** If he or she still isn’t reading on grade level at the end of that year, your student won’t be held back again for poor reading.

Students with certain disabilities or those who speak English as a second language may be affected differently by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. Talk to your child’s teacher to find out more.