

# **EAU CLAIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

## **OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

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**Superintendent:** Ann Marie Shell



**Date:** February 19, 2020

**To:** Parent or Guardian of 3rd Grade Student(s)

**INRE:** Read by Third Grade Stakeholder Information Letter

Greetings,

For the past several years the state of Michigan has been discussing the critical need for students to be reading on grade level by the end of third grade and the Read by Grade Three Law. With the M-Step quickly approaching, we want to ensure that all stakeholders are well informed of the impact this law will have on our current third graders.

In October of 2016, the Michigan state legislature passed the Read by Grade Three law that requires schools to identify learners who are struggling with reading. This law states that third graders may repeat third grade if they are reading one grade or more below grade level. Determining a student's risk for retention is based initially on the state's ELA -M-STEP assessment. Please see the attached document that lays out the M-Step performance levels and what the state has identified as proficient, partially proficient, and not proficient for each grade level.

To determine a student's risk for retention in 3rd grade, the state went a step further and identified a specific cut score ([RBG3 Memo](#)) to identify the most at-risk students. This cut score is believed to identify a student who is scoring lower than a second-grade reading level. Students who score at or below this cut score will receive a letter sent by certified mail from the state, saying the student may need to be retained in third grade. Parents/guardians have 30 days from receiving this letter to send a written appeal to the district superintendent stating that they do not want their child retained.

In the effort to ensure that you are well informed of the state's expectations, as well as the policy and procedures of Eau Claire Public Schools, we have included a timeline and the criteria that will be used for determining the decision of whether to uphold the state's recommendation for retention or to place the student in the next grade level.

It is critical that you take the time to understand the policy, the process, and the timeline established. The District believes a fair and equitable policy has been established, and the decision to retain a child will be collaborative and made in the best interest of the student and his or her future academic success. Once a decision is made, the decision will be final.

To learn more about the state's Read By Grade Three Law, go to the Michigan Department of Education's website for the [Read by Grade Three-Parent Awareness Toolkit](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_74161-490688--,00.html) ([https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753\\_74161-490688--,00.html](https://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,4615,7-140-28753_74161-490688--,00.html)) and other helpful information and resources. Additionally, the [Read by Grade Three Guide](#) is now available. This guide was created in collaboration with a Read by Grade Three committee and will be updated on a quarterly basis. Finally, don't forget to check out our **Read At Home Plan** (<https://eauclaireps.com/parent/read-at-home/>) for resources to help you grow your child as a reader.

Thank you for your time. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or the school should you have additional questions. More information and a Read by Grade Three informational meeting will be provided during the week of Parent-Teacher Conferences in March. All parents of 3rd-grade students are strongly encouraged to attend.

Regards,

*Ann Marie Shell*

**Ann Marie Shell**

*Superintendent*

Eau Claire Public Schools



***Learn Today, Lead Tomorrow.***



PLEASE SIGN & RETURN

**To:** Eau Claire Public Schools, Lybrook Elementary

**Regarding:** Read by 3rd Grade

I have read the Stakeholder Information Letter. I understand that this letter is explaining the 3rd Grade Reading Law and the impact that it may have on my child. I understand if my child does not achieve a score above the cut score identified by the state that I will be contacted by both Lybrook Elementary and the State of Michigan.

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

~~~~~*Bottom portion to be completed by a member of the school*~~~~~

***Date Returned*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Received By*** \_\_\_\_\_

***Administrator received on*** \_\_\_\_\_ ***Initials*** \_\_\_\_\_