



# BRIGHT BEGINNINGS

*Excellence Today for Success Tomorrow*

Dear K-3 Parents,

This letter is to provide you with information on Arizona's *Move on When Reading* (MOWR) legislation and the importance it places on your child's ability to read at or above grade level by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade. Arizona Revised Statute §15-701 states that if a student scores below the cut score on the reading portion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade AzMERIT exam, he/she will not be promoted to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade until sufficient progress is made to demonstrate that the student is reading proficiently.

There are four exemptions to retention in ARS §15-701. In accordance with the law, a school district governing board or the governing body of a charter school is permitted to promote a student who fails to meet the cut score on the reading portion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade AzMERIT exam for any of the four following reasons:

- (i) A third grade student is an English Language Learner or is Limited English Proficient and has received fewer than two years of English instruction; or
- (ii) A third grade student with disabilities has an individualized education plan (IEP), and the IEP team, which includes the student's parent/guardian, agrees that promotion is appropriate; or
- (iii) A third grade student is in the process of a special education referral or evaluation for placement in special education and/or students that have been diagnosed as having a significant reading impairment, including dyslexia; or
- (iv) A third grade student has demonstrated or subsequently demonstrates sufficient reading skills or adequate progress towards sufficient reading skills of the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading standards as evidenced through a collection of reading assessments approved by the State Board.

Additional information about Arizona's *Move on When Reading* legislation can be obtained at [www.azed.gov/mowr](http://www.azed.gov/mowr). Also, feel free to contact me if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Jackman  
Principal