



August 18, 2015

Dear 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Parents,

This letter is to provide you with important information on Arizona’s Move On When Reading law and the importance it places on your child’s ability to read at grade level. Arizona Revised Statute § 15 - 701 states that if data on the third grade statewide reading assessment is available at the end of the school year and demonstrates that a student scored “falls far below” the student shall not be promoted from the third grade. Last school year, 2014-2015, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students were exempt from the MOWR law.

During the 2014-2015 school year, the new statewide assessment AzMERIT was given for the first time. As with the first administration on any statewide assessment it takes much longer for schools to receive student scores. Therefore, schools did not have student scores on AzMERIT back in time in 2015 to determine if a student should be retained. This means the MOWR law was not used to make retention decisions for the 2014-2015 school year. This change in retention decisions was put in place only for last year, the 2014-2015 school year.

Since AzMERIT scores from Spring 2015 will be received this fall, school districts and charters must use the scores to identify 4<sup>th</sup> grade students who Fall Far Below standards on the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade statewide reading assessment, Spring 2015. **Once identified, schools and charters must provide each 4th grade student FFB on the spring 2015 statewide reading assessment with at least one of the 4 intervention/remedial strategies identified by the State Board.**

ARS § 15-701– The 4 intervention are:

- A requirement that the pupil be assigned to a different teacher for reading instruction
- Summer school reading instruction
- Intensive reading instruction that occurs before, during or after the regular school day
- Online reading instruction

If your child’s score shows he/she scored FFB on the Spring 2015 3<sup>rd</sup> grade statewide reading assessment, your child is entitled to receive one or more of these reading interventions.

If you have questions or need additional information about this new policy, please contact either Susan Otto, MA. Ed., Title I Reading Specialist, or Katherine Miller, MA. Ed., Principal, at 602-896-2900.

Sincerely,

Katherine Miller, MA. Ed.

Principal, Desert Heights Charter School

Link to changes in MOWR law: <http://www.azleg.gov/legtext/52leg/1r/adopted/s.1461edu.pdf>