



September 2025

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The South Carolina Read to Succeed Act became law in 2014 (updated 2024 Act 114). The intent of Read to Succeed is to ensure all students have the reading skills necessary to become college and career ready. Read to Succeed includes significant implications regarding the promotion and retention of third grade students.

Section 59-155-160 of Read to Succeed states:

*“Beginning with the 2024-2025 School Year, a student must be retained in the third grade if the student fails to demonstrate reading proficiency at the end of the third grade as indicated by scoring Does Not Meet Expectations or at the lowest achievement level on the state summative reading assessment. A student may be exempt for good cause from the mandatory retention but shall continue to receive instructional support and services and reading intervention appropriate for their age and reading level. Letters regarding this law and implications for retention will be emailed to school email addresses for students in 3rd grade throughout the 3rd grade year providing further explanations and information.”*

Although there are several exceptions to this requirement in Read to Succeed, please be assured that our school district's goal is that all students will be proficient readers by the end of third grade. Actions to improve student success include additional instructional time devoted to literacy, small group, individualized instruction, and classroom teachers' receiving specialized literacy training and support from school-based literacy coaches.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me. You may also find information about the Read to Succeed Act on the South Carolina Department of Education website at <https://ed.sc.gov/instruction/early-learning-and-literacy/read-to-succeed/>

Thank you.



Stephanie Koortz

Elementary School Principal

Erin McCutcheon

Reading Coach