

# THE ABC'S OF MISSISSIPPI'S LITERACY-BASED PROMOTION ACT

## Reading is the Key to Learning

When students are strong readers, they're prepared for success in school and in life. Strong reading skills serve as the foundation for future learning. They enable students to become strong leaders with bright futures.

Reading on grade level by the end of third grade is an important milestone. When students enter fourth grade with strong reading skills, they are better positioned for success in the classroom, high school graduation, and readiness for college or a good job.



## What is the Literacy-Based Promotion Act?

Mississippi wants to ensure all students are ready for success in school and beyond. That's why we've created the Literacy-Based Promotion Act (LBPA), which takes a comprehensive approach to improve the reading skills of K-3 public school students so that every student promoted from third grade to fourth grade can read at or above grade level.

**LBPA helps teachers, schools, and districts develop strong readers in four ways:**

### Supporting Teachers

The Mississippi Department of Education is working with principals and teachers to ensure they have the resources and tools they need to support grade-level reading for all students, including literacy-focused training and access to in-school reading coaches.

### Identifying Struggling Readers Early

Schools and districts assess students beginning in kindergarten to identify those who struggle with early reading skills. K-3 students are given a universal screener at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year. This allows teachers and schools to identify struggling readers early and provide them with supports immediately.

### Providing Supports and Resources to Struggling Readers

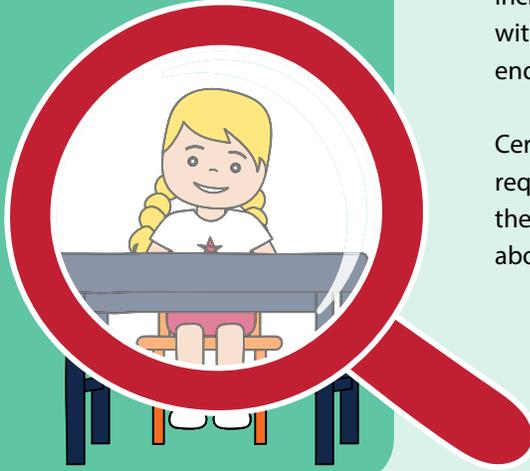
When a student has been identified as having a reading difficulty, his or her teacher and parents will work together to create an Individual Reading Plan (IRP). The IRP outlines the supports the student will receive to improve their reading skills, such as one-on-one instruction and learning in small groups.

### Supporting Students with an Extra Year of Reading Services

Beginning in the 2018-19 school year, students must score a level 3 or higher to move on to the fourth grade. If a student is still struggling with reading at the end of third grade, that student will receive an extra year of specialized support so he or she is ready to enter fourth grade as a strong reader.



**Retention is not a simple repetition of the third grade.**



The additional year provides struggling readers with extra time and intensive supports led by a high-performing reading teacher, such as 90 minutes of reading instruction during the school day, tutoring, and summer reading camps. Parents also receive a “Read at Home” plan that includes strategies for reading at home. Schools work in partnership with parents and will communicate if there is a need for retention at the end of third grade.

Certain third-grade students who do not meet the academic requirements for promotion to the fourth grade may be promoted by the school district through a good cause exemption. More information about good cause exemptions can be found at [StrongReadersMS.com](http://StrongReadersMS.com).

## **Parents and Teachers: Key Partners in Supporting Reading Success**

Parents need to be involved in helping their child become a strong reader. Schools cannot do this work alone. Parents, schools, and communities all need to work together. Teachers will work with parents by clearly communicating student expectations and progress to parents along the way. By partnering together, parents and teachers can help students meet important milestones each year so they can become strong readers and strong leaders.

