

IEPs and Non-Progression Notification Guidance 2024



Do we send non-progression notifications for students in special education 45 days before the end of school as required by the Alaska Reads Act?

Yes, special education students are general education students first. Retaining a student with an IEP should involve a thoughtful and collaborative approach to ensure their academic success and overall well-being. This approach would be the same as a student without an IEP. The school team would consider all data points to help determine if the challenges in reading are indicative of a broader learning issue that may require a more comprehensive approach. After a comprehensive review of the data, having the conversation to retain a student, with an IEP, could be appropriate.

Key Principles for Consideration for Non-Progression:

1. **Early Intervention:** The student was screened for reading difficulties at least yearly between kindergarten and third grade, including regular classroom observations. Every year from kindergarten through third grade, students should have an IRIP or IEP and receive evidence-based reading interventions based on those plans.
2. **Parent Engagement:** The individual reading improvement plan (IRIP) includes parent notification and provides opportunities for parent engagement in developing and implementing interventions.
3. **Appropriate Considerations:** Students with disabilities, as a whole, are not automatically exempt from non-progression.
4. **Aligned Interventions:** Non-progression must be coupled with diagnostic assessments and analysis of the effectiveness of current intervention to concur if a change is necessary.
5. The student was included in opportunities for extra reading instruction outside of the school day as appropriate.
 - a. Accommodations and modifications were provided.
6. The student should be included in opportunities for extra reading instruction in the summer, including 20 hours for 3rd through 4th grade transition, as appropriate.
 - a. Accommodations and modifications are provided.
 - b. Extended School Year (ESY) does qualify as the required summer school reading intervention for the (IRIP).

