



The Alaska Reads Act



Parent Guidance 3rd Grade Waiver

Understanding the Waiver

If a third-grade student is identified through Middle of Year (MOY) data and progress monitoring as well below grade level in foundational reading skills and not prepared for fourth-grade reading, parent/guardian will be invited to discuss available options, including signing a waiver. The waiver acknowledges the student's reading deficiency, and can allow them to advance to fourth grade.

Parent or Guardian Action

After reviewing all information and data presented during the meeting, the parent or guardian will decide whether the student will advance to the next grade. While they have the right to request promotion regardless of reading proficiency, a waiver must be signed that includes an agreement for the student to receive an additional 20 hours of reading intervention services over the summer before entering fourth grade.

Although the final decision rests with the parent or guardian, collaboration with the teaching team is strongly recommended to develop a summer intervention plan tailored to the student's needs. By signing the waiver, the parent or guardian confirms their decision regarding grade progression and acknowledges that all relevant information has been reviewed.

Here are some sample questions parents/guardians can ask the school:

1. In addition to the Literacy Screener, what other reading assessments were given this year and how did my student score?
2. What reading support did the school give my student this year and what progress has my student made?
3. Can you describe how my student's Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP) met their reading needs?
4. What are the core skills that my student needs to work on to catch up?
5. How have my student's reading skills impacted their other academic subject areas?
6. If I choose to have my student move to 4th grade, what will the individual academic plan be for next year?
7. What can I do to support my student at home with learning to read?
8. What additional programs are available for my student? (e.g. resources, afterschool tutoring, online support)