

Dear Bennie Families,

In order for students to be college and career ready, it is important that they have strong literacy skills. In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed House Bill No. 4822 to ensure that children who exit Third Grade are reading at grade level. All children in Grade Three are required to take the state assessment beginning in the 2019-2020 school year. Students must be proficient on this test in reading in order to be promoted to the Fourth Grade.

Based on our fall testing, If a child exhibits a reading deficiency, the district will provide an Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) to address challenge areas and provide training and resources for parents and guardians of students in grades K-3.

Allen Park Public Schools has chosen to use our K-5 NWEA student proficiency scores as our measure of a student's reading level. This test is given three times annually and students are measured against a cut score, which varies by grade, to determine whether or not they are at or below grade level. If a student is measured to be one full year below grade level, a reading plan is generated for them with a school and home plan that detail how we move forward to bring the student to grade level.

The fall test is a baseline test for the year and it may typically yield lower initial scores, with many students likely to score better in the winter. In early November, the district will be mailing out reading plans to all students who have been shown to be one year or more below grade level as measured by the NWEA test. Teachers will be discussing the plans at conferences. Please do not become alarmed if you receive a plan. If your child scores closer to grade level on the winter NWEA test, he or she will be dismissed from the reading plan.

It is important to note that we look at additional data from other reading assessments that our district administers to give us a whole picture on student reading levels. Therefore, your child's overall reading ability may be at a higher level based on other assessments. Please discuss all of your concerns with your child's teacher.

For more information, please contact me at 313-827-1300.

Sincerely,

**Sara Metzger, Principal**