



Arizona State Board of Education

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Aug. 27th, 2015
To: AZ LEAs
RE: MOWR Cut Scores

Dear LEAs,

For the purposes of Move On When Reading (MOWR), the State Board of Education (SBE) voted to set an AzMERIT reading score equivalent to the “Falls Far Below” or FFB level on the previous statewide AIMS assessment for SY15 and SY16. State law requires 3rd grade students to attain at least a certain score on the reading portion of the 3rd grade statewide assessment in order to be promoted to 4th grade – commonly referred to as the Move On When Reading Law.

Current 4th Graders:

As part of the 2015 reporting of AzMERIT results, LEAs will receive a report of those SY2014-2015 3rd grade students who did not meet the required reading score when they took the 2015 3rd grade AzMERIT ELA assessment, which is equivalent to the “Falls Far Below” or FFB level on the previous statewide AIMS assessment. Under state law, these students who were promoted to 4th grade are entitled to receive reading intervention services (See A.R.S. § 15-701(A)(2)(a)). LEAs need to notify parents if a 4th grade student is entitled to interventions or support under the law.

Current 3rd Graders:

This year’s current 3rd graders will be subject to the promotion requirement, A.R.S. § 15-701(A)(4)(a), if they do not meet the required score on the reading portion of the AzMERIT assessment, which is equivalent to the “Falls Far Below” or FFB level on the previous statewide AIMS assessment. The results of the Spring 2016 administration of AzMERIT will be back before the end of this school year in time for promotion decisions to be made.

SY 2017 and beyond:

The Board will be seeking data and input to help set an appropriate level for the Move On When Reading 3rd grade promotion requirement before the end of this school year to be used in future school years.

Thank you,
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