



Fountain Hills Unified School District #98

16000 E. Palisades Blvd.
Fountain Hills, AZ 85268
480-664-5000 Phone 480-664-5099 Fax

Dr. Patrick Sweeney
Superintendent

Dr. Robert Allen
Assistant Superintendent for Business Operations

August 19, 2015

Dear Third Grade Parent or Guardian,

The Fountain Hills Unified School District staff is committed to working in partnership with you to ensure that your child receives the very best education possible. The Arizona State Legislature also recognizes the importance of ensuring that your child and every child have acquired the basic skills necessary to be a contributing member of our society.



With that in mind, the Legislature passed House Bill 2732 or the “Move On When Reading” law (ARS §15-701) in 2010 which states that if data on the third grade statewide reading assessment is available at the end of the 2015-2016 school year and demonstrates that a student scored “falls far below” or the equivalent level on the new AzMERIT assessment, the student shall not be promoted from the third grade. **The MOWR law will apply to this year’s 2015-2016 third graders.**

There are three exemptions from ARS §15-701. In accordance with the law, a school district governing board or the governing body of a charter school is allowed to promote a student who earns a score of “falls far below” on the third grade statewide reading assessment only for the three following reasons:

- (i) A third grade student is an English Language Learner or Limited English Proficient who has received less than two years of English instruction; or
- (ii) A third grade student with disabilities has an individualized education plan (IEP), and the IEP-team, which includes the student’s parent/guardian, agrees that promotion is appropriate; or
- (iii) A third grade student is in the process of a special education referral or evaluation for placement in special education and/or students that have been diagnosed as having a significant reading impairment, including dyslexia. (Dyslexia is defined as a brain-based learning difference that impairs a person's ability to read and spell that is independent of intelligence and that typically causes a person to read at levels lower than expected.)

Amendments to ARS §15-701 can be found at the following website:
www.azleg.gov/legtext/52leg/1r/adopted/s.1461edu.pdf

Your child is currently in our McDowell Mountain third grade and is under the requirements of this legislation. We encourage you to continue to work collaboratively with your child’s third grade teacher to ensure that your child is acquiring all the skills and strategies he/she will need to be a successful reader. Your child’s teacher will continue to provide you with timely updates on his/her reading progress. If you would like additional information regarding your child’s progress, please contact his/her teacher.

We look forward to working with you to ensure that your child and every child in the Fountain Hills Unified School District becomes a proficient and successful reader and learner. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact the school at 480-664-5200.

Sincerely,

Valerie Dehombreux
Principal, McDowell Mountain Elementary

“We achieve and celebrate educational excellence”