



## **Literacy Based Promotion Act**

### **Statute Overview: Senate Bill 2347**

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## **Requirements for Public Schools**

- Inform parents or legal guardians of the student's academic progress
- Provide intensive reading instruction and immediate intervention to each K - 3 student who exhibits a substantial deficiency in reading at any time, as demonstrated by performance on an MDE-approved reading screener or locally determined assessments and teacher observations



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## **Parent Notification Requirements**

If a K - 3 student has been identified with a substantial deficit in reading, the teacher will immediately, and with each quarterly progress report, notify parents or legal guardians of the following in writing:

- Determination of a substantial deficit in reading
- Description of student services and supports presently provided
- Description of proposed supplemental instruction and support to remediate the student's deficit areas
- Strategies for parents to use to help students at home
- Notification that student will not be promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> grade if reading deficiency can not be remediated by the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade



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## **Mississippi Reading Panel**

MDE has established a Mississippi Reading Panel to collaborate with the department on:

- Recommending appropriate comparable alternate assessments
- Establishing cut scores to determine promotion to 4<sup>th</sup> grade
- Establishing a make-up opportunity for those who were unable to take the assessment due to unforeseen circumstances or for those needing to retest



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## **Mississippi Reading Panel Members**

- State Superintendent of Education or designee
- Chair of the House of Education Committee or designee
- Chair of the Senate Education Committee or designee
- Member appointed by the Governor
- Two additional members appointed by the State Superintendent of Education



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## **Social Promotion and Third Grade Gateway**

- A student may not be assigned a grade level based solely on age or any other factor that constitutes social promotion.
- Beginning in the 2014-2015 school year, a student scoring at the lowest achievement level in reading on the established state assessment for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade will not be promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> grade.
- A 3<sup>rd</sup> grade student who fails to meet the academic requirements for promotion to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade may be promoted for good cause.



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## Good Cause Exemptions

- Limited English Proficient students with less than two (2) years of instruction in English Language Learner program
- Students with disabilities whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) indicates that participation in the statewide accountability assessment program is not appropriate, as authorized under state law

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## Good Cause Exemptions

- Students with a disability who participate in the accountability assessment and who have an IEP or Section 504 plan that reflects that the student has received intense remediation in reading for two (2) years but still demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained

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## Good Cause Exemptions

- Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of reading proficiency on an alternative assessment approved by the State Board of Education
- Students who receive intensive intervention for two or more years but still demonstrate deficiency in reading, and who previously were retained for two (2) years in any grade Kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

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## Interventions for Students with Good Cause Exemptions

Students promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> grade based on good cause exemptions shall be provided intensive reading instruction and intervention informed by data and delivered through specific strategies in order to meet the students' needs.

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## Key Reporting Requirements of the Literacy-Based Promotion Act

The school board of each school district must publish, in a newspaper that has general circulation within the school district, and report to the State Board of Education and the Mississippi Reading Panel the following information:

- The number and percentage of students given an approved alternate standardized reading assessment and the percentage of these students performing at each competency level of the alternate standardized assessment
- By grade, the number and percentage of all students retained in K-8
- Information on the total number and percentage of students who were promoted for good cause, by each category of good cause

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## Funding for K-3 Literacy and Third Grade Gateway

The \$9.5 M appropriation from the 2013 legislative session may be used for the following:

- Training all K - 3 teachers (~ 9,900 participants)
- Training all K - 3 principals (~ 500 participants)
- Training school- or district-based literacy coaches
- Employing and training literacy coaches and regional literacy coordinators
- Employing state literacy director
- Training IHL faculty

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