

Bovina Elementary
5 Willow Creek Drive
Vicksburg, MS 39183
601-619-4453

Dear Parent:

Being a good reader is critical for students to be successful in school. Mississippi's Literacy-Based Promotion Act helps to ensure that students develop their reading skills from kindergarten through the 3rd grade so that they exit 3rd grade equipped for 4th grade reading instruction.

In accordance with this law, all 3rd grade students are required to take a test at the end of the school year to determine promotion to 4th grade. **Starting in the 2018-19 school year, 3rd grade students must score at level 3 or higher on the reading portion of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) English Language Arts test to qualify for promotion to 4th grade – a higher benchmark than in previous years.** Students have three opportunities to pass this test. If your child does not pass this test, you will be informed in writing that your child will not be promoted to 4th grade unless he/she qualifies for an exemption.

Students in kindergarten through the 3rd grade take periodic reading assessments to help teachers identify students who need intensive reading instruction and intervention. The tests provide useful information to help teachers tailor instruction to meet individual student needs. Parents receive the results of the first test within the first 30 days of school. Students in grades 1-3 are assessed again in the middle of the school year. Parents receive these results by February. Student progress is documented in quarterly report cards.

The law requires districts to provide early and regular written communication with parents of K-3 students with substantial reading difficulties. This quarterly communication includes information about current services being provided, additional reading supports planned for your child, and the Parents' Read-at-Home Plan, which includes strategies for you to help your child at home.

Reading instruction must be a major focus in grades K-3, as 3rd grade is the year that students transition from learning to read to reading to learn. Students need strong reading skills in order to learn in all other school subjects, such as science, history, writing and even math. Much work is being done to ensure success of our K-3 students. Family involvement and understanding is an important part of this effort.

For more information, please contact Rebecca Jones or visit www.mdek12.org/Literacy.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Jones