

Alabama Literacy Act

What does this mean for
your child?

Jefferson County Schools



JEF COED

Current reality

In 2019, the Alabama Legislature passed the **Alabama Literacy Act**, and it became effective September 1, 2019.

The first group of students that falls under this act are **first graders** during the 2019-2020 school year.

What the law says . . .

“Commencing with the 2021-2022 school year, third grade students shall demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion to fourth grade.”

There are “good cause” exemptions, but our goal is to have all of our students read well.



Why was the act established?

“..to implement steps to improve the reading proficiency of public school kindergarten to third grade students and ensure that those students are able to read at or above grade level by the end of the third grade...”

Why is the deadline third grade?

Ninety percent of children with reading difficulties will achieve grade level in reading **if they receive help in the 1st grade**. Seventy percent of children whose help is delayed to age 9 or later continue to struggle throughout their school career.”

(Vellutino, Scanton, Sipay, Small, Pratt, Chen & Denckla, 1996)



Parental Notification

Starting in the 2020-2021 school year, a parent or legal guardian of any K-3 student who exhibits a consistent deficiency in reading or characteristics of dyslexia at any time during the school year shall be notified in writing.

How are we supporting our students?

- District-wide implementation of Phonics First, a multisensory phonics program that increases students' ability to decode words.
- District-wide implementation of a research-based reading curriculum for building comprehension and vocabulary.
- School-based interventions through the Response to Instruction model.
- Classroom teachers provide tiered instruction based on an individual student's needs.

Parent & Family Involvement



JEFCOED

Parents as Partners

- How do you partner with your child's teacher?
- What resources do you need to strengthen the relationship?
- What resources do you need to support your child in reading at home?



Parents as partners clip art

Communication

One of the best ways to support your child is through **two-way communication.**

- It develops positive speaking and listening skills.
- It informs you of what your child is learning at school.
- It provides insight on how your child thinks and feels about school.



Show that reading is valued

- You may read to your child, your child may read to you, and/or you may read together.
- It is recommended that children read at home for a minimum of 20 minutes daily.
- Visit libraries, bookstores, and yard sales to help create your home library.
- Expose your children to different types of reading material.



Key Takeaways

- As a parent, you will always be your child's first teacher.
- Always maintain open communication with your child's teacher(s).
- Ask questions, become involved, and attend school functions when possible.

