

Dear Parents,

It is important to inform you of some significant changes to Arizona Revised Statutes regarding the promotion and retention of third grade students.

***Please note that these changes do not take effect until the school year 2013-14. This school year's kindergarten students (2010-11) will be the first group of third grade students to be impacted by this legislation.***

The newly revised law states that a student shall not be promoted from the third grade if the student obtains a score on the AIMS reading test that demonstrates he or she is **reading far below the third grade level.** \*

In accordance with the new law, a school district or governing board or the governing body of a charter school MAY choose to promote a pupil who earns an AIMS score that falls far below the third grade level for any of the following reasons:

1. The student has an identified disability and did not take the AIMS test.
2. The student has an identified disability and has previously been retained in a grade.
3. The student is an English Language Learner and has had less than two years of English instruction.
4. The student has a reading deficiency and has been previously retained twice in a grade.
5. The student has demonstrated reading proficiency on an alternate assessment approved by the State Board of Education.
6. The school district governing board or the governing body of a charter school accepts a parent's written request for an exemption that includes required documentation provided by the parent.

This newly revised statute (A.R.S.§ 15-701) can be accessed at the following website:

<http://www.azleg.gov/FormatDocument.asp?inDoc=/ars/15/00701.htm&Title=15&DocType=ARS>

Information about AIMS performance levels (i.e.- falls far below) is available at:

<http://www.ade.az.gov/researchpolicy/AIMSResults/2010ScaleScoreTable.pdf>

These performance level definitions may be different in 2013.

If you have questions or need additional information please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

Lake Havasu Unified School District #1

\*As of 2010, a third grade AIMS reading scale score of 200-378 or a raw score of 0-17 would put a student at the "falls far below" performance level for reading.