

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.