



Dear Parent or Guardian,

Being a good reader is critical if a student is going to be successful in school. In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed the Third Grade Retention Law to ensure that students exit 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading at or above grade level, which will affect the following 2017/2018 students by the time they are in third grade.

- Young Fives (Y5)
- Kindergarten
- 1st Grade

In accordance with this law, and as a means of better informing classroom instruction, districts will be providing Y5-3 assessments to students across the state. These assessments will identify students who need intensive reading instruction and intervention and will also provide useful information to help teachers tailor instruction to meet individual student needs. Holly Area Schools will be using the i-Ready Diagnostic Reading Assessment as the state approved assessment.

Y5-3 students will be assessed at the beginning, middle and end of the school year. The law also requires districts to provide early and regular written communication with parents of Y5-3 students with reading difficulties. Communication will include information about current services being provided, additional reading supports planned for your child, and strategies for you to help your child at home (Read-At-Home plan).

Beginning in the spring of 2020, all 3<sup>rd</sup> grade students will be required to take a standardized state assessment to determine promotion to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. If your child is one or more grade levels behind in reading at the end of 3<sup>rd</sup> grade, you will be informed in writing by the Michigan Department of Education that your child will not be promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> grade unless he/she qualifies for an exemption.

Students need strong reading skills in order to learn in all other school subjects, such as science, social studies, writing, and math. Extensive work is being done to ensure success of our Y5-3 students. Your help at home is critical to your child's success at school; family involvement and understanding is an important part of this effort. Please see Part 3 on the attached parent guide for ways to support your child. A Read-At-Home plan has also been included to provide activities and strategies to help your child become a proficient reader. This information can also be found on our district website <http://www.hask12.org> in the Curriculum & Instruction section under the Departments tab.

Sincerely,

Scott M. Roper  
Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum & Instruction