



Move On When Reading Statewide Test Administration Purpose and Talking Points Spring 2021

The purpose of Move On When Reading (MOWR) is to identify struggling readers as early as possible and provide them with targeted supports so that they are reading at or above grade-level by the end of third grade.

Research shows that students who are not reading at or above grade-level by the end of third grade are four times less likely to graduate from high school. It is vital that all data available are used to identify and meet the needs of struggling readers.

Starting in kindergarten and continuing through third grade, all students are administered a universal literacy screening assessment to identify their strengths and areas of improvement in language development and reading. Students who are identified with specific struggles receive targeted supports across kindergarten through third grade.

As part of the Move On When Reading legislation (ARS 15-701), third-grade students who fail to reach the MOWR cut score on reading portion of the third-grade statewide English Language Arts (ELA) exam are candidates for retention.

- There are four good-cause exemptions to retention for a student that
 - Is an English learner or is limited English proficient and has received less than two years of English language instruction; or
 - Is in the process of a special education referral or evaluation for placement in special education, or has been diagnosed as having a significant reading impairment, including dyslexia; or
 - Is a child with a disability as defined in section 15-761 and the child's individualized education program (IEP) team, which includes the student's parent/guardian, agrees that promotion is appropriate; or
 - A student that has demonstrated or subsequently demonstrates sufficient reading skills or adequate progress towards sufficient reading skills of the third-grade reading standards as evidenced through a collection of reading assessments which meet criteria approved by the State Board of Education.

In the 2019-2020 school year, the retention requirement for third-grade students that did not meet the MOWR cut score on the statewide third-grade English Language Arts exam was suspended as no state assessment was given.

- This requirement, *at this point, has not been suspended* for the 2020-2021 school year.
- It is important to realize that a third-grade student who fails to meet the MOWR cut score can demonstrate "sufficient progress towards reading" on an alternative reading assessment, as described above.
 - Summer school may be provided for students who struggle. If the student demonstrates proficiency through a valid literacy assessment, the student may be promoted to fourth grade.
- The use of the statewide third-grade English Language Arts exam provides an important data point regarding student progress in reading. Students who struggle on the statewide exam and/or fail to meet the MOWR cut score, even if they are promoted to fourth grade based on a good-cause exemption, should receive immediate supports upon entering fourth grade.
- Students without a reported score for the 2021 Spring third-grade AzM2 ELA assessment are not to be retained based on Move On When Reading requirements.