



**LEARNING  
TODAY.**

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**LEADING  
TOMORROW.**

**Alabama  
Literacy Act  
Parent Overview**

# What is the Literacy Act?

- In 2019, the Alabama legislature passed the Alabama Literacy Act, and it became effective September 1, 2019.
- The goal was to ensure all students enter 4<sup>th</sup> grade reading on grade level.



# Why the Literacy Act?

“..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...”

# The law states...

- “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 meet the requirements to be promoted.

# What is MCPSS doing?

- Invested in foundational reading skills training for ALL K-3 teachers
- Implemented a preventative model where all students are provided with explicit direct instruction based upon the science of how students learn to read
- Revised the Response to Instruction framework to include specific criteria of the Literacy Act
- Encouraged teachers to participate in statewide LETRS training
- Invested in training for seven new dyslexia therapists

# What does a preventative model look like?

- Continuing to keep children at the heart of all we do
- Remembering that teachers – not programs or products – teach children to read
- Empowering teachers with best practices
- Identifying difficulties early
- Providing early intervention
- Focusing on skills, not just grades
- Intervening effectively
- Solving small issues before they become big problems



# Parental Notification

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.

# LETRS<sup>®</sup>

"No matter what reading program you have, you will be able to use the knowledge and training in the science of reading and LETRs."  
Antonio Fierro

- Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling is not a curriculum or a program.
- It provides in-depth training on the science of reading and how children learn to read.
- Assists teachers with identifying reading difficulties early to be preventative.
- Training is funded by Alabama State Department of Education.



# What if my child needs help in reading?

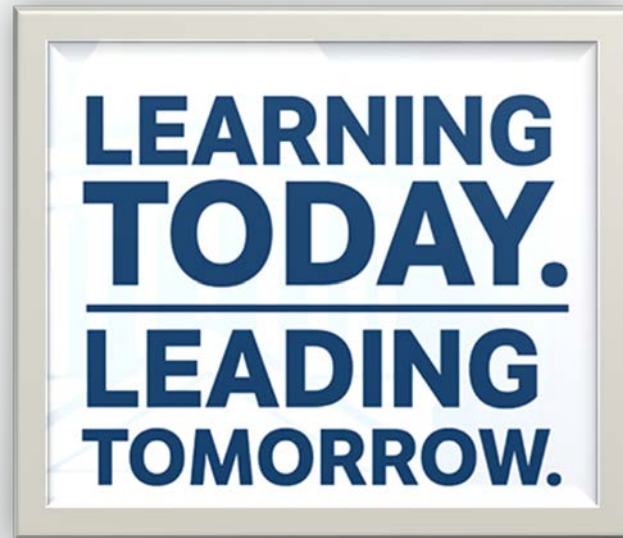
- Our Response to Instruction (RtI) process has been adjusted over the last 2 years to meet the requirements in the Literacy Act.
- We screen all students for reading deficits, identify those which need additional assistance, and plan ways to address the deficits.
- Interventions are based upon the reading deficits.
- Parents are notified of at home activities which support the identified deficits in reading.
- Progress is shared with parents at least monthly.

# What can I do to help?

- Make sure your child is present and on time for school
- Talk about what your child is reading with them
- Read to your child
- Show that reading is important
- Read different types of materials (books, magazines, newspapers, etc.)




# Mobile County PUBLIC SCHOOLS



Questions?

Contact your child's teacher or check out resources on our website.



TODAY A  
Reader.  
TOMORROW A  
Leader.