



Mississippi Literacy-Based Promotion Act Key Messages

Official Name

Mississippi Literacy-Based Promotion Act

Key Points

1. **The Mississippi Literacy-Based Promotion Act** will help ensure that every student reads at or above grade level by the end of 3rd grade. The act is part of a statewide effort called **Strong Readers = Strong Leaders** to improve literacy among all school children.
2. **Prevention is key.** Reading instruction must be a major focus of Kindergarten through 3rd grade, as 3rd grade is the year that students transition from *learning to read* to *reading to learn*. Students need strong reading skills in order to learn in all other school subjects, such as science, history, writing, and even math.
3. **Intervention is for students having reading difficulties.** Struggling readers will be identified early. Students identified as having a reading difficulty will be provided immediate intensive reading intervention that meets their specific reading needs.
4. **Retention is a last option.** 3rd grade students must meet reading standards by the end of the year in order to be promoted to the 4th grade. Students are given multiple opportunities to demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion.
5. **Families are the backbone of student learning.** Family involvement and understanding will be critical to students' success.

Background

- In 2013, Mississippi Governor Phil Bryant signed the Literacy-Based Promotion Act into law.
- In 2013, Mississippi 4th graders were reading over one full grade level behind the national average on the National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) assessment.