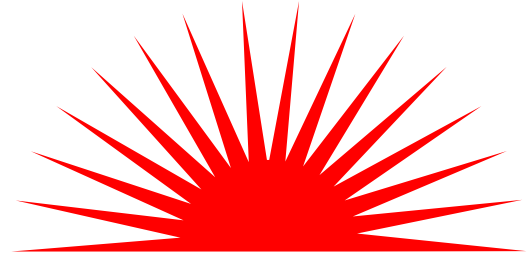




State of Arizona
Department of Education



Special Education Monitoring Alert

December 2013

Alert to Special Education Directors and Program Administrators

Clarification on Move On When Reading for Students with Disabilities

The Arizona Revised Statutes (A.R.S.) 15-701 pertaining to Move On When Reading (MOWR) set forth the requirements for determining which students with a disability can be exempt from the statute's conditions for promotion. Over the last few months, several questions have arisen in regard to these requirements. To address those questions, the Arizona Department of Education is providing guidance.

In 2010, A.R.S. 15-701 established the requirement that a pupil not be promoted from the third grade if the pupil obtains a score on the reading portion of the Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) test or a successor test, that demonstrates that the pupil's reading falls far below the third grade level. As stated in the law, there are two exemptions to this requirement.

“(1) A good cause exemption if the pupil is an English learner or a limited English proficient student as defined in section 15-751 and has had fewer than two years of English language instruction.

(2) A child with a disability as defined in section 15-761 if the pupil's individualized education program team and the pupil's parent or guardian agrees that promotion is appropriate based on the pupil's individualized education program.”

The second exemption protects those children with disabilities whose disabilities affect their ability to learn reading at grade level. If an IEP team determines the child's disability affects his/her reading ability, the IEP team, which includes the child's parent or guardian, will make a promotion/retention decision that is based on the best interests of the child.

Contact Cindy Daniels at cindy.daniels@azed.gov if there are questions.