

## Vision

Our vision is  
to be the benchmark  
of educational  
excellence.

# Westerville City Schools

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Dear Westerville Elementary Families,

This letter is to inform you of legislation that impacts the work of our elementary schools, not only in Westerville, but across the State of Ohio. Commonly called “The Third Grade Reading Guarantee,” this law requires all elementary schools in the state to do the following:

## Mission

Our mission is  
to prepare students  
to contribute  
to the competitive  
and changing world  
in which we live.

- By September 30, schools must administer a **reading diagnostic assessment** to all students in K-3. In Westerville, the Kindergarten Readiness Assessment for Literacy (KRA) will be used for first time kindergarten students. All other students will take the iReady reading diagnostic.
- Based on the results of these assessments, teachers must identify students as being either “**ON TRACK**” or “**NOT ON TRACK**” to be reading on grade level by the end of the year.
- Districts must **notify parents** of all students identified as “**NOT ON TRACK**” with a letter stating that an area for reading improvement exists. Parents will be invited to participate in developing a **reading intervention monitoring plan (RIMP)**. This plan will be updated throughout the school year.
- Schools **may retain** any third grade student who does not meet the benchmark on the Ohio State Test in Reading, as determined by the Ohio Department of Education, if the principal and reading teacher do not have evidence of other evaluations showing skill in reading. Exceptions to this rule may exist for students who are considered Limited English Proficient or are identified as a Student with a Disability.

## Values

Respect  
Inclusiveness  
Community  
Communication  
Collaboration  
Innovation  
Nurturing  
Trust  
Accountability

Administering a start-of-year reading assessment to drive instruction and determine interventions is not a new concept in Westerville City Schools. This is good practice, and our teachers have been doing this for quite some time.

If your child is identified as being “**NOT ON TRACK**,” you will receive a letter from your school principal. This letter will invite you to participate in the development of your child’s **Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plan**, a meeting that may take place during Parent/Teacher conferences in October. Your child’s teacher will also provide you with resources you can use at home to support the school’s interventions. Rest assured that your child’s support team (teachers, principal, and you) will work together to help your child grow and reach his or her potential. Being identified as “**NOT ON TRACK**” at the start of the school year does not mean that he or she will not find academic success this school year. Rather, this identification tells us which students require focused, intensive interventions in order to reach their potential.

Please do not hesitate to contact your child’s principal with any questions you have about the requirements of this legislation.

Best wishes for a successful school year,



Cheryl Relford, Executive Director of Elementary Schools