

*Our Vision...Brown County Schools will prepare students to achieve success through quality instruction.*



December 2011

Dear Grade 3 Families,

In March of 2010, the Indiana General Assembly passed Public Law 109 requiring the evaluation of reading skills for all Indiana third grade students. This legislation was developed to ensure students are reading at grade level prior to beginning fourth grade. In response to this legislation, your child must take the *Indiana Reading Evaluation And Determination (IREAD-3)* Assessment. Note that the *IREAD-3* is not the same as *ISTEP+*.

### **Required Test Dates**

**All 3<sup>rd</sup> graders must participate in both I-READ and ISTEP+.**

**All 3<sup>rd</sup> graders must participate in IREAD-3 between March 13<sup>th</sup> and March 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**All 3<sup>rd</sup> graders must participate in ISTEP+ between March 5<sup>th</sup> and March 9<sup>th</sup>.**

Based on the Indiana Academic Standards, *IREAD-3* specifically tests foundational reading standards through grade three. The Indiana Department of Education (IDOE) has created two documents for parents about this new reading assessment. The first document is the ***IREAD-3 Item Sampler*** with examples of the types of questions that may appear on IREAD-3. You may download the *IREAD-3 Item Sampler* at [www.doe.in.gov/assessment/iread\\_resources.html](http://www.doe.in.gov/assessment/iread_resources.html). It is also attached for your convenience. The second document is the ***IREAD-3 Parent Guidance***. It contains details about the assessment as well as helpful indicators of reading proficiency in 3<sup>rd</sup> graders. It is attached for your convenience as well.

### **Potential Consequences for Students**

Our ongoing commitment to quality reading instruction and your high level of parental support will likely result in your child passing ISTEP+ and IREAD-3. However, in accordance with PL 109, there are several consequences for students who do not pass IREAD-3. Students that do not pass must continue to receive instruction in Grade 3 Reading, be officially reported as a third grade student, and fully participate in the Grade 3 ISTEP+ assessment the following school year. We have been informed that the opportunity to participate in an IREAD-3 retest will take place in mid to late June should your child fail the IREAD-3. Any parent with a child needing to retest will be contacted with details as we receive them from the Indiana Department of Education, Office of Student Assessment.

Please read through the *IREAD-3 Item Sampler* as well as the *IREAD-3 Parent Guidance* very carefully. If you still have questions, you may contact your child's principal or call me directly at the Central Administration Office (988-6601 ext. 1141).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Debbie Harman".

Debbie Harman, Director of Student Learning  
Brown County Schools

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**Note:** There are a few exceptions to retention of a student that does not pass IREAD-3. They are referred to as "Good Cause Exemptions" in PL109. They are as follows:

1. *Students who have previously been retained two times prior to fourth grade.*
2. *Students with disabilities whose Case Conference Committee has determined that promotion is appropriate.*
3. *English Learner students whose Individual Learning Plan (ILP) Committee has determined that promotion is appropriate.*