



October 2012

Dear Parent/Guardian,

This past summer the Ohio Legislature passed Senate Bill 316, which Governor John Kasich signed into law. Senate Bill 316 included changes that directly affect elementary schools with the addition of the "Third Grade Guarantee." The following actions are to be taken by all elementary schools throughout the State of Ohio:

- ✓ Beginning with the opening of **THIS** school year, districts were required to conduct reading assessments on all students in Grades Kindergarten through Third Grade by September 30th;
- ✓ As a result of those assessments, teachers must identify students as "**On Track**" (meaning that their performance is meeting expectations for students entering the current grade level) or "**Not on Track**" (meaning that their performance is currently below expectations for the grade level to which they are entering);
- ✓ School districts are required to notify parents of students identified as "Not on Track" with a letter following the completion of assessments;
- ✓ A plan for student intervention and monitoring growth and progress must also be completed, and updated throughout the school year;
- ✓ Beginning next school year, third graders who do not reach the state-determined success mark on the state assessments will not be able to be promoted to fourth grade. **This does not apply to this year's third grade students.**

Diagnostic assessments are not new in Galion City Schools. Our classroom teachers already complete individualized student assessments and use the results of those assessments to plan for teaching and intervention to meet each child's learning needs.

Should you receive a letter identifying your child as "**Not on Track**," you will be asked to meet with your child's teacher for a more detailed summary of your child's reading assessment results. Also during this meeting, a *reading improvement plan* will be designed for your student, which will include additional intervention strategies.

We look forward to working together to support your child's learning success. Please feel free to contact your building principal with any questions about this new legislation and its requirements.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sandra Powell".

Sandra Powell, Ed. D.,
Director of Curriculum, Instruction & Federal Programs