



204 E. Muskegon St,
Cedar Springs, MI 49341
616-696-1204

www.csredhawks.org

Scott B. Smith
Superintendent

Vision - Cedar Springs Public Schools will prepare all students to be independent thinkers and life-long learners who are confident and engaged in their community and world.

Mission - Cedar Springs Public Schools is a welcoming, inclusive educational environment where students are challenged to reach their potential, and are prepared for life beyond school.

Core Values -
*Integrity
Respect
Compassion
Accountability
Collaboration*



Joann Spry, M. Ed

January 2019

Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Being a good reader is critical for children to be successful in school. In 2017 the Michigan Legislature implemented the Third Grade Reading Law to ensure students exit third grade reading at or above grade level. This will impact the current 2018-2019 second grade students when they are in third grade.

In accordance with this law, and as a means of better informing classroom instruction, districts are required to provide assessments to students across the state. These assessments will identify students who need intensive reading instruction and intervention, and will also provide useful information to help teachers tailor instruction to meet individual student needs.

The law also requires districts to provide early and regular written communication with parents of K-3 students with reading difficulties. Communication will include information about current services being provided, additional reading supports planned for your child, and a read-at-home plan for you to help your child at home.

Reading instruction must be a major focus in grades K-3. Students need strong reading skills in order to learn in all other school subjects. Much work is being done to ensure success of our K-3 students. Family involvement and understanding is an important part of this effort.

For further details about the legislation, please refer to [House Bill No. 4822](#) (link provided)

Highlights of the law include:

- A state approved reading diagnostic assessment will be administered to all K-3 students. In Cedar Springs, we will use [iReady Diagnostic assessment](#) which has been implemented in the 2017-2018 school year and continues in the 2018-2019 school year.
- Based on iReady results, as well as teacher and principal consultation, students identified as being one or more years below grade level will receive targeted literacy support through the development of an Individual Reading Plan (IRP).
- The Individual Reading Plan (IRP) will contain specific skill areas which will be addressed and monitored through interventions and instructional support.
- Schools will provide a "School to Home Reading Plan" for identified students and off parent resources to assist with home reading strategies.
- In compliance with the law at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year, third-grade students who do not demonstrate grade level reading proficiency on the state assessment **may** be recommended for retention.



For a closer look at the K-3 literacy instruction in Cedar Springs, please review the [Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy booklet](#).

Your child is in good hands with our exceptional elementary teaching staff who continues to be focused on literacy for all students. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's school should you have any questions.

Educationally,

Joann Spry

Joann M. Spry, M.Ed

Assistant Superintendent, Teaching and Learning