



## **EDENTON-CHOWAN SCHOOLS** OFFICE OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

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Allan T. Smith, *Superintendent*

March 10, 2014

Carolyn Guthrie  
Director, K-3 Literacy Program  
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction  
6314 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699-6314

Dear Ms. Guthrie:

Edenton-Chowan Schools fully supports the goal of the Read to Achieve legislation to ensure that every student can read at or above grade level by the end of third grade and to progress in reading proficiency so that he or she can read, comprehend, integrate, and apply complex texts needed for secondary education and career status.

We also support the work of the Department of Public Instruction in its efforts to ensure LEA's have opportunities to continue the monitoring and assessments of third grade students as part of the Read to Achieve local plan. We propose using the following plan as an alternative assessment, yielding a "just cause" exemption for reading proficiency among our third grade students who meet any of these criteria:

1. **Beginning-of-Grade (BOG) Third Grade Reading Pre-Test Assessment:** A student must score at least at the minimum level for proficiency (442 or another level as determined by DPI). This is a state assessment administered at the beginning of the third grade school year and measures students' proficiency on end-of-year standards.
2. **MClass: Reading 3D- Text Reading Comprehension (TRC):** A student will demonstrate proficiency with a score of level P or higher. In addition, students will be progress monitored throughout the year with BOY (beginning of year), MOY (middle of year), EOY (end of year) measures and as warranted by student performance. The developer of this program, Amplify, has documented its validity and reliability. This is documented at <http://www.livebinders.com/play/play/850102>
3. **STAR (Standardized Test for the Assessment of Reading) Assessment:** A student will demonstrate proficiency with an Instructional Reading Level (IRL) grade equivalent measure of 3.0 or higher.
4. **Local Class Scape/Power School Benchmark Assessment in Reading:** Proficiency will be demonstrated by a score of 70% proficient or higher by the final benchmark.
5. **Read to Achieve Portfolio:** All third grade students are participating in the Read to Achieve portfolio process. Data is being collected and will be used to determine proficiency based on current Read to Achieve portfolio guidelines.

We believe the noted assessments are reliable tools of measurement to use as our LEA's Read to Achieve Alternative Assessment. The request has been presented to the local board of education.

Respectfully,



Allan T. Smith, Ed.D.  
Superintendent

**Board of Education Approval:**

The requested alternative assessments for Read to Achieve have been presented to the Edenton-Chowan Schools Board of Education. As presented in the letter of request, the proposal proves to be valid and reliable standardized assessments of reading comprehension and demonstrates that a student is reading at or above third grade level as is required by the Read to Achieve Law.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Mr. John Guard, Board of Education Chairperson