



## Education Justice Program

Advancing education equity and racial justice for all children

# UNDERSTANDING READING IMPROVEMENT PLANS

## Students' Rights Under Missouri Law

**Did you know?** Missouri has a law that creates obligations for school districts when certain students are not reading on grade level.

**Mo. Rev. Stat. § 167.645** went into effect in July 2001.

### Who is covered by this law?

Starting in third grade, all students are covered by the assessment and interventions in this statute, **EXCEPT**:

- Students who've been determined to be reading at grade level or above within the school year
- Students receiving special education through an Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- Students with a Section 504 plan that includes reading elements
- Students who have limited English proficiency

These excluded student groups have other rights under federal and state laws.

### Under the law, a Reading Assessment is

“a recognized method of judging a student's reading ability, with results expressed as reading at a particular grade level. This could include:

- Standard checklists as students read aloud
- Paper-and-pencil tests created by nationally recognized organizations
- Other recognized methods of determining a student's reading accuracy, expression, fluency, and comprehension

## What must school districts do?

1. School districts must administer a reading assessment to each covered student within 45 days of the end of third grade. The district can determine the appropriate method of assessment.
2. If a student is found to be reading below second-grade level, the school district must design a reading improvement plan for the student's fourth-grade year.
3. School districts must administer another reading assessment to all students with reading improvement plans within 45 days of the end of fourth grade.
4. If a student is then found to be reading below third-grade level, the student will be required to attend summer school to receive reading instruction. At the end of summer school, they will be given another that point, the district must notify the student's parents or guardians, and the student will not be promoted to fifth grade.
5. This process of assessment, reading improvement plans, and summer school should be repeated as necessary through the end of sixth grade. It is not mandatory for a district to retain a student after fourth grade.
6. Each school district is required to offer summer school reading instruction to any student with a reading improvement plan. Summer school should be a minimum of 40 hours of reading instruction/practice.

### A Reading Improvement Plan

must include at a minimum 30 hours of additional reading instruction or practice outside the regular school day. The school district can determine the method of reading instruction.

## What else should you know?

- School districts must inform parents of students who require reading improvement plans.
- School districts can retain a student who has been determined to need summer school reading instruction and who does not meet the summer school attendance requirement.
- Parents can request the number and percentage of students receiving reading improvement plans in their district.