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Connie B. Holdway
Director of Schools

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To: Parents of Third Grade Students
From: Connie Holdway, Director of Schools
RE: New State Law

Parents:

The State of Tennessee has passed a new law, Public Chapter 351 that affects all students in the third grade beginning with the 2011-2012 school year. The law states that a third grade student may not be promoted to the fourth grade unless the student has shown a basic understanding and skill in the subject of reading, as demonstrated by the student's grades or standardized test results. This means that students who score "below basic" on the TCAP exam at the end of the third grade year will be retained.

If a student participates in a research-based intervention program before the beginning of the fourth grade year, retention will not be mandated. This means that a student who is falling behind can take additional approved courses to improve reading skills and still be promoted to the fourth grade. Also, this new law does not apply to students who have Individualized Education Programs (IEPs).

This new law was created to make sure students can read well before entering the fourth grade. With this effort, students will have the knowledge and tools needed for success. We appreciate your continued support of our schools.

Sincerely,

Connie Holdway
Director of Claiborne County Schools