

***STRONG READERS***

***ACT***

**2024-25**



# PRESENTATION GOALS

- Provide an overview and understanding of the new Strong Readers Act
- Understand the changes and new initiatives from the Reading Sufficiency Act to the Strong Readers Act.
- Understand the requirements for K-3rd grade students under this new legislation.

# STRONG READERS ACT LEGISLATION

SB 362 went into effect July 1, 2024 and replaced the Reading Sufficiency Act.

Many changes have been made to the literacy law.

# PURPOSE

The Strong Readers Act aims to **strengthen literacy** among Oklahoma's students by integrating reading proficiency into the criteria for grade progression, **ensuring appropriate instructional support**, and maintaining **clear communication with families** about student progress.

# FOR THE STUDENT

- The Strong Readers Act emphasizes use of curriculum and instructional practices based on scientific research in order to prevent reading difficulties and provide instructional supports as quickly as possible when needed.
- The ability to read proficiently by the end of third grade significantly reduces the need for remediation in middle and high school and lowers the risk of a student dropping out of school because he or she is unable to read.

# 3RD GRADE RETENTION *CHANGE!*

- SB 362 removed 3rd grade retention from the literacy law
- Beginning with the 24-25 SY 3rd grade retention will be handled **just like the other grades**. District policies will determine retention, not state requirements.
- No longer needed:
  - Good cause exemptions
  - Portfolios
  - RSA criteria on OSTP - will not have it
  - Pathway documentation

# WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS *NEW!*

## Strong Readers Page on SPS Website

- Parent resources
- Family Guide
- Data- *coming soon!*

By grade, the number and % of students in K-3.....

Who **did not meet grade level** standards on the screener

Who have been enrolled in the district for **fewer than 2 years**

Who **demonstrated grade-level proficiency** on the screener

Who are on an **IEP and demonstrated proficiency**

The following items are to be posted on the district website by  
September 1, 2025

# TIMELINES *CHANGE!*

## UNIVERSAL SCREENER- iStation (2024-25)

- BOY, MOY & EOY
- K-3 students (SPS screens all K-5)
- Families must receive notification of a reading difficulty and a completed Student Literacy Intervention Plan (SLIP) within 30 calendar days of identification of a reading difficulty.
- Families will be notified if a student scores in the 60th percentile or above.

# TIMELINES *CHANGE!*

## DYSLEXIA SCREENER

- Students who are found to have a reading deficit by the universal screener will be screened for the characteristics of dyslexia using an OSDE approved screening assessment within 30 days of the end of universal screening
- **SPS will be using Amira as our Characteristics of Dyslexia tool for 2024-25.**
- K-3 students
- **Parents must be notified within 15 days of the dyslexia screening window.**

# SCREENER - AMIRA *NEW!*

- **State selected screener - AMIRA**
- **Amira and iStation have merged.**
- **Amira - Screener, Pathway and Characteristics of Dyslexia screener**
- **Used this year for Characteristics of Dyslexia testing**
- **Spending the year exploring this option.**

# KINDERGARTEN *CHANGE!*

- Kindergarten was previously screened for the Characteristics of Dyslexia during the middle of the year window
- **NOW...** they will follow the same rules as other grades. They will be screened during the beginning of the year window and will be put on an SLIP within 30 days if reading deficiency is determined.

# EXEMPTIONS FOR THE UNIVERSAL SCREENER *NEW!*

Student in four identified areas will be exempt from the requirements of the Strong Readers Act.

- The student participates in the OAAP and is taught using alternative methods
- The student's primary expressive communication is sign language
- The student's primary form of written or read text is Braille
- EL who has been identified with a state approved assessment and have received less than 1 year of instruction in an EL program.

# PARENT NOTIFICATION- 60TH PERCENTILE *NEW!*

- A letter will be sent to parents when their student scores at the 60th percentile or above on the BOY, MOY or EOY screener.

# EVIDENCE BASED INSTRUCTIONAL PRACTICES *NEW!*

**Beginning in the 2025-26 School year, three cueing practices will be prohibited in Oklahoma.**

- The three cueing system means any model of teaching students to read based on meaning, tribute syntax, and visual cues which also may be known meaning, structure and visual (MSV), balanced literacy or whole language.

**Guidance from the State Department will be coming in December.**

# FUNDING *CHANGE!*

- 4.5 million increase in Strong Readers funds
- 17.5 million total
- Must be spent on specific things with K-3 Reading and Science of Reading Professional Development