

Read to Achieve – Portfolio Process Update

On January 16th, 2014, Dr. June Atkinson sent a letter to all superintendents in the state outlining a series of options that could be used as “good cause exemptions” for students under the requirements of Read to Achieve. The letter and chart of options is attached for your review.

Based on this information and feedback collected from a variety of stakeholders including teachers, administrators, and parents the Wake County Public School System would like to make the following recommendations moving forward.

Students whom have achieved a “good cause exemption” through the means listed below will no longer be REQUIRED to complete the portfolio process.

1. Beginning of Grade Test – Students with a scale score of 442 or higher on the Beginning of Grade 3 Test have demonstrated proficiency and have met the reading comprehension requirement for Read to Achieve. The proficient scores will count for performance in accountability for 2013-2014; however, these students will have to take the End-of-Grade English/Language Arts (ELA) test at the end of the school year for inclusion in the growth analysis.
2. Extend 2 Identified Students – Special Education student that are currently identified to take the Extend 2 version of the End-of-Grade test are not required to complete the portfolio process. They will still be required to take the appropriate End-of-Grade ELA test at the end of the school year. **(Not yet official but expecting confirmation memo from DPI within the next 48 hours)**
3. Case21 Benchmark Assessments – WCPSS has submitted our quarterly 3rd grade benchmark assessments provided by Case21 for approval by the State Board of Education. If approved, any 3rd grade student scoring a Level 3 or higher on any of the ELA benchmarks throughout the year have demonstrated proficiency and have met the reading comprehension requirement for Read to Achieve. These students will have to take the End-of-Grade ELA test at the end of the school year for inclusion in school proficiency and growth analysis. **(Need to reiterate that this had NOT yet been approved by the State Board)**

WCPSS expects all 3rd grade students to pass the NC EOG and/or demonstrate appropriate growth. Instruction on grade level content is expected and necessary for these students to progress. Moving forward, teachers will have the autonomy to utilize the portfolio reading passages with the students that have a “good cause exemption” when they deem it appropriate for instructional purposes. Decisions about the use of the passages with these students should be discussed with school administration and PLTs.