



South Carolina Parent Talking Points

Read to Succeed, Summer Reading Camps,
and Retention

SOUTH CAROLINA PARENT TALKING POINTS



These talking points can be used to guide conversations with parents about Read to Succeed, Summer Reading Camps, and retention.

Read to Succeed: How South Carolina helps your child read on grade level

A student's ability to read is a critical predictor of educational and lifelong success. South Carolina wants to ensure all students are ready for success in school and beyond.

Read to Succeed is a statewide initiative to support every student in reading at grade level, from pre-K through 12th grade. It includes special supports and resources for helping students meet the key milestone of reading on grade level by third grade.

Beginning in fourth grade, students shift from "learning to read" to "reading to learn." When a student reads at grade level before fourth grade, they're better prepared for educational and lifelong success.

Reading to learn enables a student to comprehend facts in social studies and science, understand word problems in math, and interpret complex concepts in language arts.

When students enter fourth grade with strong reading skills, they are better positioned for success in the classroom, high school graduation, and readiness for college or a good job.

Strong reading programs, beginning in kindergarten, help students get on—and stay on—the path to grade level reading. They are designed to give students every opportunity to be successful.

Read to Succeed ensures students identified with a reading difficulty receive additional supports from the teacher, including one-on-one and small group time with targeted reading instruction to meet individual student needs.

Educators, schools, and school districts are dedicated to providing students with resources, interventions, and other supports to ensure they're reading on grade level by the end of third grade.

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Summer Reading Camps: Opportunities to improve reading beyond the school year

One of the many supports for struggling readers are summer reading camps. Students who are reading significantly below grade level have the opportunity to attend a summer reading camp at no cost to parents and families.

Led by teachers with special training in literacy, these six-week camps are designed to provide students who are struggling with reading with high-quality and intensive instruction and support in a fun, engaging environment.

South Carolina Department of Education literacy specialists provide instructional support to students and teachers during summer reading camps, ensuring all students receive the targeted support they need.

Summer reading camps help students improve their reading skills so they are better prepared for success in the next grade and on track to read on grade level by the end of third grade.

For students who are recommended for retention, the successful completion of a summer reading camp provides an exemption from retention.

Many school districts partner with libraries, local colleges and universities, community organizations, and other groups to support summer reading camps and provide volunteers, mentors, tutors, and other resources.

Parents can check with their child's school or school district for more information about summer reading camps in their area.



Retention: One part of the comprehensive reading supports

Read to Succeed provides comprehensive supports for South Carolina students, from pre-K through 12th grade, to support them in becoming grade-level readers and prepare them for success in school and beyond.

As a student advances from kindergarten through third grade, parents and guardians are regularly updated on their child's reading progress and are given home reading strategies and other resources to support learning at home.

It may be determined that a student needs additional time and support to gain grade level reading skills before moving on to the fourth grade. At the end of third grade, readers who continue to struggle are retained a year and given specialized support to help them catch up with their peers.

This retention is not a simple repetition of the third grade. The additional year provides struggling readers with the extra time and intensive interventions and support they need to meet their individual reading needs, setting them up for success in fourth grade and beyond.

If a student is retained, they receive personalized learning plans and intensive reading supports such as summer reading camps, tutoring, or a parent home reading plan so they can successfully enter fourth grade reading to learn.

Schools work in partnership with parents and guardians to support the needs of children. As part of these conversation, schools will communicate if there is a need for retention at the end of third grade.

Some students are exempted from retention. They include students with disabilities who have previously been retained, students with disabilities who take an alternative statewide assessment, and students with less than two years of English instruction.

Parents can contact their child's school or district office for the full list of retention exemptions.

Equipped with accurate, easy-to-understand information about Read to Succeed, Summer Reading Camps, and retention, parents and educators can better work together to help all students read at grade level by the end of third grade.

For more information, visit screads.org.