



Keota Elementary School

Dedicated to preparing learners for an ever-changing society.

To All Parents and Guardians of K–6 Students:

We want to inform you about a new Iowa law, House File 2618, which affects elementary literacy and grade retention policies. Below are the key points you should know:

New Parental Rights

- Schools must notify parents if their child in grades K–6 is not reading at grade-level proficiency.
- Parents now have the right to request that their child repeat a grade if they are not proficient in reading.

Our District's Perspective

While we fully respect parental choice, our district does not generally recommend grade retention as a strategy for improving academic performance. Research shows that retention can sometimes have negative long-term effects on students' social-emotional well-being and overall progress.

Important Considerations

- The retention option applies only to students struggling with reading proficiency.
- Our teachers already provide personalized reading plans and interventions for students who need extra support.
- We are committed to working closely with families to strengthen each child's reading development through targeted instruction and resources.

What to Expect Next

If your child is identified as reading below grade level, you will receive a separate notification after each of our screening periods (fall, winter, and spring). Before making any decision about grade retention at the end of the year, we strongly encourage you to meet with us to discuss all available options.

Our shared goal is to ensure every student becomes a confident and capable reader. We look forward to partnering with you to support your child's literacy growth.