What is the READ Act?
The Colorado READ Act is new legislation that sets guidelines to assure every student completes third grade reading at or above grade level. At the start of this school year, all students were tested (using the FAST or i-Ready assessment) to find out how they are performing in reading. This helps us identify which students need extra help reading texts at their grade level.

What does Reading Significantly Below Grade Level Mean?
A student who is reading Significantly Below Grade Level is reading a year or more below his/her current grade level. Research shows that reading at grade level by the end of the school year is essential for future school success.

What is a Read Plan?
The READ Plan is an individual intervention plan for students identified as performing significantly below grade level in reading. A READ plan is designed to help your child catch up by outlining what areas of reading are the most difficult, what the school will do to teach your child to read, and what you can do at home to support your child’s reading success.
How Can I Help My Child at Home to Succeed in Reading?

Your child’s teacher can suggest ways that you can help your child at home. Here are a few examples…

☐ Talk to your child as much as possible in your home language. This will increase your child’s vocabulary.

☐ Read to your child in your home language daily.

☐ Listen to your child read. Reading 5 easy books is much better for building reading than reading 1 hard book. Most students who are reading below grade level read very little and spend time with books that are too hard. This only discourages them.

☐ Let your child know that school success is important to you and that you and the teacher are partners in the READ Plan.

☐ Let your child listen to books on tape, computer or CD, and then tell the story to you.

☐ Use plastic letter sets to sort, ABC order, match upper and lower, make simple words, and spell family names.

☐ Send your child to school every day s/he is well AND remind your student to follow directions and complete work at school.

Important Points about the READ Act, TSD, and Your Child...

1. Our goal is for all children to graduate from high school ready for further education or for the work force. Preparing students for this begins as soon as they enter school.

2. Your child is having problems with reading.
   • Your child’s teacher used the FAST or i-Ready assessment to find that your child is reading significantly below grade level.

3. Being able to read on grade level by third grade is an important marker for school success. Research shows that if a student enters fourth grade far behind in reading, he or she is likely to have trouble in other subjects that require reading. This will make school difficult for the remaining grades and could result in an inability to complete the course work required to graduate from high school. This is why we are starting as early as possible to support your child’s reading development and get him or her on track.

4. Reading skills are critical to success in school. The school will be providing an intervention to teach the reading skills needed to enable your child to achieve reading competency.

5. Your child’s teacher will create a READ Plan to help your child acquire and use the reading skills that he or she is missing. This plan will include targeted intervention instruction. Every 6-8 weeks, progress is monitored, results will be shared, and the plan will be adjusted, as needed.

6. You, as the parent, play a central role in supporting your child’s efforts to achieve reading competency. You are encouraged to partner with your child’s teacher in implementing the READ plan, and to use the suggestions in this parent brochure and other support materials to help your child in his or her reading success.

7. Your child’s teacher will follow-up with you at the end of the school year so that you can work together to plan for the next school year. Some children may need more than one year to catch up. There are many measures that can be taken, and repeating a grade could be considered, but this is recognized as a drastic measure that is not appropriate for most children.