



# TRANSYLVANIA COUNTY SCHOOLS

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## **Board of Education**

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Jeffrey S. McDaris, Ed.D.

March 17, 2014

Dr. June St. Claire Atkinson  
State Superintendent  
North Carolina Department of Public Instruction  
6301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-3601

RE: Request to Use an Alternate Assessment for Proficiency

Dear Dr. Atkinson:

Transylvania County Schools appreciates the flexibility that you have granted districts to request the use of an alternative assessment for third graders. We respectfully request that the North Carolina State Board of Education consider and approve our request to utilize a locally developed alternative assessment and TRC (Text Reading Comprehension) Level P reading assessment in addition to the current list of good cause exemptions already stated in the Read to Achieve document.

This request will allow students an additional opportunity to show reading proficiency with the locally designed assessment created in School Net. These passages and questions are aligned to the North Carolina Common Core and parallel question stems used on the End of Grade test. Text Reading Comprehension (TRC) Level P is at grade level for End of Year (EOY) proficiency using the state approved Reading 3D. The Reading 3D is benchmarked three times per year and progress monitored throughout the year to show reading proficiency. The TRC provides evidence that students have proficient reading skills in accuracy, fluency, oral comprehension and written comprehension.

Transylvania County Schools wants to ensure that every student reads at or above grade level by the end of third grade and continues to progress in reading proficiency. Our goal is to prepare students to read and comprehend complex text at not only the

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present level, but to prepare them for college and career success. It is with this goal in mind that we ask for your approval of our alternate assessments for the benefit of our students.

Sincerely,

Jeff McDaris, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools

Tawny McCoy, Chair

Transylvania County Board of Education

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