October 2016

Dear Parent/Guardian of student name,

In an effort to notify parents/guardians of their child’s reading progress, schools are required to inform first, second, and third grade parents/guardians of whether or not their child is reading on grade level. This is being done three times per school year (fall, winter, and spring).

The tool we use to assess if a child is reading on grade level is called DIBELS (Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills). DIBELS are measures that help teachers and schools determine how students are performing on foundational reading skills. DIBELS tests are “indicators” of the student’s overall reading proficiency. It is similar to using a thermometer to take your child’s temperature, which provides a quick indicator of your child’s general health. A school can quickly identify students who do not meet the benchmark goals on each DIBELS measure and provide extra support as needed.

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that based on beginning of year benchmark data, your child is not reading on grade level. The benchmark goal is \_\_\_\_\_\_. Your child’s score is \_\_\_\_\_\_. We are committed to helping your child achieve their goal in reading on or above grade level by providing additional support that is targeted to meet their individual needs.

These supports may include one or more of the following strategies:

* Re-teaching with grade-level materials
* Additional small-group instruction, using best practices and materials that are proven successful with struggling readers
* Tutoring individual students

For resources on how to support your child at home, you can visit <http://www.uen.org/parents/>. We look forward to working with you as a team in order to improve your child’s reading skills. We encourage you to talk with your child’s teacher about any questions or concerns you may have. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,