



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC INSTRUCTION | June St. Clair Atkinson, Ed.D., *State Superintendent*

WWW.NCPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

May 27, 2010

Dear Parents:

As the end of school year approaches, every teacher begins to dread “summer slide.” This is not a scary theme park ride, but an alarming academic trend in which students who do not read on a regular basis during their summer break from school fall behind in reading achievement. To prevent this “summer slide” and encourage your child to work on building literacy skills during this time away from the classroom, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) is launching the “READ NC” campaign. As part of this campaign, we would like to show you some outstanding new resources that use students’ Lexile[®] measures, found on end-of-grade and end-of-course score reports, to identify books that will provide them with challenging and engaging summer reading.

The Lexile Framework[®] for Reading assesses both a student’s reading ability and the text difficulty in books, magazines and even newspapers. In our state, students in grades 3-8, as well as high school students taking the English I assessment, receive a Lexile measure on their end-of-grade or end-of-course test reports. At the bottom of your child’s test results report, you will find a Lexile measure and a link to a page on the NCDPI website: www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/lexiles. This page features more information about Lexile measures and tools to help your child improve his or her literacy skills this summer.

The first of these tools is the North Carolina version of the Lexile map. This map features a variety of fiction and nonfiction titles organized by Lexile level, including some titles with North Carolina connections. I recommend that you print a copy of this reading map and take it, along with your student’s EOC or EOG test score report, when you visit your public library this summer.

The second valuable reading resource is the “Find a Book” search. This tool allows you to search online tens of thousands of book titles by Lexile measure and topic to find books that will tap into your child’s personal interests and complement his or her reading comprehension level. The book search is free and allows users to see if book titles are currently available in local public libraries. This is a great tool to use at home or at your nearby library!

Please join me in participating in the “READ NC” campaign and using the Lexile resources now available at www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/lexiles to make sure your child gains instead of loses valuable literacy skills this summer.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "June St. Clair Atkinson".

June St. Clair Atkinson

JSA:SC:sc

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