



PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF NORTH CAROLINA

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

WWW.NCPUBLICSCHOOLS.ORG

Dear Educators:

As the end of school year approaches, we all begin 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 students to build literacy skills during their time away from the classroom, the N.C. Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI) sponsors the “READ NC” campaign. As part of this campaign, we would like to show you some outstanding 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 students’ reading abilities 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 students’ test results report, you will find their 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 some tools you can use to help students build personalized summer reading lists before they leave school for summer vacation.

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 keep a copy of this reading map in your school’s library, in your classrooms, and that you post it on your class website and distribute it to parents along with report cards and other end-of-year materials.

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 students’ personal interests and complement their reading comprehension level. The book search is free and allows users to see if book titles are currently available in local public libraries. I am looking forward to visiting schools in the coming weeks and showing students how to create their own summer reading lists!

Please join me in participating in the “READ NC” campaign and using and sharing the Lexile resources now available at www.ncpublicschools.org/accountability/lexiles with your students and their parents. Thank you for all you do to nurture a love for reading in our young people so they can be successful in school and in their future careers.

Sincerely,

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

June St. Clair Atkinson

JSA:SC:sc

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