

Holding back kids who can't read isn't an easy fix, city schools say

Despite what law says, nearly all students are promoted.

BY ELISA CROUCH

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ST. LOUIS • Each year, around 2,000 children in the city's public elementary and middle schools receive the worst score possible on state reading exams.

And yet, just 134 students in grades three through eight were held back this year, according to state data.

It's a fact that was pointed out to St. Louis Public Schools officials in a stinging state audit of the district last month. Now city school officials are taking steps to better comply with two largely ignored state laws that prohibit children who lack adequate reading skills from

advancing to the next grade. In the next few weeks, parents of city school children are to receive notice if their child is reading more than one grade level behind. For the first time this fall, the district is giving a standard reading assessment to middle and elementary schools to determine where their skills stand. Those not reading

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Musial minutiae, up for auction, reveal much about the man

Contents of legend's wallet focus on health, family.

BY TODD C. FRANKEL

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Stan Musial carried a wallet. It was brown and made of leather. He kept a \$100 bill tucked in the back, emergency cash, just in case, because even when you were Stan the Man, you never knew what might happen.

The wallet also held his Missouri drivers license. It was expired by several years, but he was in his mid-80s by then and, anyhow, he'd already given up driving. He is smiling in that photo, brown eyes noticeably tired but twinkling. The license lists him at 6 feet and 190 pounds. That was just 10 pounds more than what was printed on his Topps baseball card in 1963.

Musial was "baseball's perfect knight," as the quote goes. And that knight carried a wallet. It's almost disappointing to imagine it - that Musial ever needed to prove to anyone who he was.

A man's wallet is a private thing. Its contents can be revealing. And the only

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