



THIRD GRADE PROMOTION POLICIES

OVERVIEW

The state of Tennessee has had a student promotion and retention law in place since 2011. During the 2021 Special Session, the Tennessee legislature updated that law to ensure that all students have the support to read and perform on grade level no later than the 2022-23 school year. If a student does not pass the third grade section of the ELA TCAP (a student who receives an approaching or below score), they will be provided support to ensure they are ready for grade level ELA lessons in fourth grade. If a student’s family does not wish to take advantage of these supports, the student will be retained to third grade to ensure that they receive an additional year of instruction and can participate fully during their fourth grade ELA classroom moving forward.

WILL MY CHILD/STUDENT BE RETAINED?

If your child scores “Approaching” or “Below” on the third grade ELA TCAP, your child will **NOT** be retained if **ANY** of the following are true:

YOUR CHILD SCORES “APPROACHING”	YOUR CHILD SCORES “BELOW”
My child has a disability.	My child has a disability.
My child is an English learner and has received less than two (2) years of English instruction.	My child is an English learner and has received less than two (2) years of English instruction.
My child has been retained previously.	My child has been retained previously.
My child has a suspected disability* that impacts literacy development.	My child has a suspected disability* that impacts literacy development.
My child was on-grade level on the re-take test.	My child was on-grade level on the re-take test.
I enrolled my child in summer programming with 90% attendance and made adequate growth.	I enrolled my child in summer programming with 90% attendance and made adequate growth.
	AND
	I allow my child to receive free tutoring at school during 4 th grade.
I allow my child to receive free tutoring at school during 4 th grade.	

**Children who are suspected as having disabilities should be evaluated in accordance with the processes required for the identification of students with disabilities as outlined in the federal Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, and state laws regarding services to students with disabilities. Those conversations, evaluations, and decisions must be reviewed for each individual child, just like any other case where a child may have a disability.*

If any of these are true, your child will **NOT** be retained. If your child does not meet one of these 6-7 categories that prevents retention, families may also submit an appeal that demonstrates how their child has demonstrated proficiency in reading. Appeals must be submitted by parents/legal guardians.

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Information for LEAs

Fall:

- Universal screeners administered.
- Review district-level universal reading screening data to consider effectiveness of programming and resource re-allocation.
- Update district home literacy report templates and ensure schools send home literacy reports that meet all TN Literacy Success Act expectations no later than **October 5**.

Winter:

- Mid-year universal screeners administered.
- Budget for expected participation in summer programming and tutoring and begin processes to staff, schedule, and fund those needs.
- Ensure schools send home literacy reports that meet all TN Literacy Success Act expectations and identify potential retention notification no later than **February 1**.
- Launch a prioritized summer camp enrollment process for third grade students at-risk of retention.

Spring:

- End-of-year universal screeners administered.
- Ensure schools send home literacy reports that meet all TN Literacy Success Act expectations and identify potential retention notification no later than **May 17**.
- Finalize summer programming for any students who receive at-risk for retention notifications and continue to demonstrate deficiencies in reading.
- Administer TCAP and 3rd grade TCAP Retake (as needed).
- Provide schools with communication tools to notify parents of students who performed at the below basic or approaching levels and the various options available to them.

Supports Available on Best For All Central

Districts & Schools

[Family Literacy Nights Turnkey Package](#)

Families

[Family Reading Resources](#)

[TCAP Family Resources](#)

[Governor's Early Literacy Foundation Family Reading Time at Home Guides](#)

[At-Home Decodable Reading Series](#)

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Information for Schools

Fall:

- Universal screeners administered.
- Review school universal reading screening data to guide shifts in core instruction as well as make changes to RTI² and high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring.
- Send home literacy reports in accordance with the TN Literacy Success Act no later than **October 5**.

Winter:

- Mid-year universal screeners administered.
- Review school-level data to guide shifts in core instruction and adjust students receiving RTI² and high-dosage/low-ratio tutoring for students who receive at-risk for retention notifications.
- Send home literacy reports to families and provide clear notification for those students who are at-risk for retention no later than **February 1**.
- Hold parent conferences and provide home resources and additional school-based support for those students who are at-risk of retention.

Spring:

- End-of-year universal screeners administered.
- Review school-level data to guide shifts in core instruction, RTI² and high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring.
- Send home literacy reports to families by **May 17** with summer programming registration and resources that may support reading at home.
- Finalize summer programming.
- Administer TCAP and 3rd grade TCAP Retake (as needed).
- Administer TCAP and communicate with parents of students who performed at the below or approaching levels.
- Communicate with families regarding all options for any students who receive at-risk for retention notifications and/or who are not proficient in 3rd grade ELA TCAP.
- Support parents wishing to file an appeal in obtaining the information necessary to do so.

Supports Available on Best For All Central

Districts & Schools

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Information for Families

Fall:

- Your child will take a universal reading screener.
- You will receive your child's home literacy report by **October 5**, which should include information on your child's current reading development, the support the school is providing your child in reading, and what to do to support literacy at home.
- Discuss results with your child's teacher.

Winter:

- Your child will take a mid-year universal reading screener.
- You will receive another home literacy report by **February 1**. This literacy report will also indicate whether your child may be at-risk for retention.
- Schedule a parent-teacher conference to review the results of your home literacy report, if needed.
- Sign your child up for summer programming to support their literacy development, if needed.

Spring:

- Your child will take an end-of-year universal reading screener and the TCAP.
- You will receive a final home literacy report by **May 17** which should also indicate whether your child may be at-risk for retention.
- Schedule a parent-teacher conference to review the results of your home literacy report and any necessary next steps including a testing retake opportunity, if needed.
- Sign your child up for summer programming and/or tutoring to support their literacy development.
- Review third grade ELA retake and appeals information (if appropriate).
- Collect necessary information and file an appeal (if appropriate and desired).

Supports Available on Best For All Central

Families

[Family Reading Resources](#)

[TCAP Family Resources](#)

[Governor's Early Literacy Foundation Family Reading Time at Home Guides](#)

[At-Home Decodable Reading Series](#)

[At-Home Decodable Reading Digital Sample](#)