

The State of Ohio's Third Grade Reading Guarantee What Parents Should Know

Ohio Senate Bill 316, signed into law in June 2012, includes the Third Grade Reading Guarantee that says students who enter the third grade in 2013-2014 or after, must score at a certain level on Ohio's third-grade reading achievement assessment to be advanced to the fourth grade. Except for students with special circumstances, students must meet a minimum score on the state reading test to move on to the fourth grade. In 2014-2015, the minimum score for advancement is 394. This score must be attained either in the Fall or Spring administration of the state reading test. Students not scoring at the determined level are now legally mandated to be retained in third grade. The law allows for certain exceptions to the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, that may apply to students with disabilities, students who have already been retained, and some English language learners.

Applicable provisions for this school year (2015-2016) are:

1. By Sept. 30th of each school year, each district, must administer an English Language Arts diagnostic assessment to Kindergarten through Grade 3 students to identify those who are reading below grade level.
2. This diagnostic information is used to create a Reading Improvement/Monitoring Plan (RIMP) for all students designated "not on track." The RIMP describes the current intervention and progress monitoring plan designed to assist the student in meeting grade level reading expectations. This plan also documents that the child may be retained in third grade if he/she does not demonstrate competency on the third-grade reading achievement assessment. This notification is required for parents of K-3 students reading below grade level.
3. The district must provide a teacher specially trained in reading instruction for each student entering the third grade with a reading-improvement plan. For each student who is retained in the third grade, the district must provide a high-performing teacher, intensive reading remediation and at least 90 minutes of reading per day. The district has submitted a teacher staffing plan to the Ohio Department of Education to meet these requirements. The district also must establish a policy for mid-year promotion in the repeated year if the student is reading at grade level by that time.
4. Each district must report to the Ohio Department of Education annually on its implementation and compliance with the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee. Districts also must submit to ODE results of their Kindergarten – Grade 3 reading diagnostic assessments.

For more information:

The Third Grade Reading Guarantee Family Resources Website hosted by the Ohio Department of Education <http://education.ohio.gov/Topics/Early-Learning/Third-Grade-Reading-Guarantee/Third-Grade-Reading-Guarantee-Family-Resources>