

## **Third Grade Reading Guarantee: Retention**

Northridge Guidance Manual

A student must reach a minimum proficiency score on the Grade 3 Reading Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA) to move on to fourth grade. If a student does not reach that score, the student may still move on to fourth grade if they qualify for a retention exemption. These exemptions apply to:

- Limited English proficient students who have been enrolled in the U.S. schools for less than three full school years of instruction in an English as a Second Language program;
- Special education students whose IEPs specifically exempt them from retention;
- Any student who has received intensive remediation for two years and was previously retained in kindergarten through third grade; and
- Students who demonstrate reading competency on a Reading OAA Alternative approved by the Ohio Department of Education.

There are two types of exemptions for students with disabilities in the Third Grade Reading Guarantee Policy:

1. Students with significant disabilities are exempt from all provisions of the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. This exemption should be an annual IEP team discussion and decision.
2. Students with IEPs may be exempt from retention in third grade. For exemption, the IEP must specifically exempt the student from retention by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee. The retention exemption should be discussed by the IEP team for all students. However, the retention exemption may not be appropriate for all students. If a student's IEP determines that the student should be exempt from retention, that does not exempt other provisions including: annual reading diagnostics; reading improvement and monitoring plans, and special teacher qualifications for the reading teacher.

### **OAA Alternative**

The OAA Alternative will be a summative reading assessment aligned to end-of-year third grade standards. A student must achieve whatever the assessment designates as proficient in order to move on to the fourth grade. Northridge Local Schools may administer these alternative assessments at any time during the student's third grade year. Northridge Local Schools may administer the OAA alternatives through the summer. A student scoring proficient will be promoted to the fourth grade before school starts in the fall. OAA Alternatives include:

- Iowa Assessments Form F Level 9 (grade 3)
- Northwest Evaluation Association (NWEA) – Measures of Academic Progress (MAP)
- Terra Nova 3

### **Summer OAA**

If a student does not earn a minimum proficiency score on the Grade 3 Reading Ohio Achievement Assessment (OAA) and did not demonstrate proficiency on an OAA alternative, the student may have the opportunity to demonstrate reading proficiency on the state assessment at the end of the summer. Students who receive a summer promotion by receiving a minimum proficiency score on the summer OAA should continue to receive appropriate reading intervention in the fourth grade.

**Retention**

If a student does not demonstrate proficiency in reading during the summer, then the student will be considered a retained student. The student will enter the third grade for the second time. Any promotion after the start of the school year would be a midyear promotion. If Northridge Local Schools believes that a student may be eligible to be promoted midyear, the district will offer the student appropriate fourth grade instruction in all other subject areas. Although a student may receive appropriate fourth grade instruction in the other subject areas, the student will still be considered a third grade student unless promoted midyear or formally accelerated. If a student received fourth grade appropriate instruction during their retained third grade year, but did not meet the requirements for midyear promotion, the student will enter fourth grade the following year, and potentially have a stronger foundation in the other subject areas.

**Midyear Promotion Policy**

Northridge Local Schools will assess a student to determine that the student has demonstrated proficiency in reading no later than December of the student's retained third grade year. Assessments used to determine proficiency may include the fall Grade 3 OAA, DRA, ITBS Form F Level 9, MAP, or Terra Nova 3. Once the student is promoted to fourth grade, he or she will remain on a reading improvement and monitoring plan and receive intensive intervention in reading. The deadline for midyear promotion is January 1 of each school year. Once a student is promoted midyear, they are considered a fourth grade student in all subjects and will take the fourth grade state assessments.

**Teacher Qualifications**

Students entering third grade for the first time or who have been retained or are on a reading improvement plan must have a teacher with at least one year of teaching experience. Additionally, the teacher must meet one of the following qualifications required in law:

- Hold a reading endorsement on his or her teaching license;
- Complete a master's degree with a major in reading;
- Have above expected rating for value added in reading instruction for the most recent, consecutive two school years;
- Earn a passing score on a rigorous test of principles of scientifically research-based reading instruction;
- Be rated most effective for reading instruction consecutively for the most recent two year based on approved assessments of student growth;
- Hold an alternative credential approved by the department or successfully complete a department-approved training for reading instruction; or
- Hold an educator license for teaching grades preK-3 issued on or after July 1, 2017.

A teacher, other than the student's teacher of record, may provide any service required by the guarantee. This teacher must have the qualification requirements and the approval of the teacher of record, who is the student's classroom teacher, and the school principal.