



## Richmond County Schools

118 Vance Street  
Hamlet, NC 28345

Dear Parent or Guardian,

As your child begins third grade, you will see a concentrated focus in ensuring students can read at or above grade level and are making progress in reading proficiency. The goal is to ensure all third-grade students can read, comprehend, integrate, and apply complex texts needed for academic success and to ensure all students can meet the requirements of the Read to Achieve law (G.S. §115C-83.1).

There are four ways your students can meet the promotion requirement of the Read to Achieve legislation.

1. Score an achievement level 3, 4, or 5 on the Beginning-of-Grade 3 Reading Test, which will be administered on May 31, 2023.
2. Successfully complete a student reading portfolio.
3. Achieve a 725 Lexile the State Board of Education-approved local alternative assessment.
4. Achieve a 725 Lexile on the formative, diagnostic assessment during a benchmark period.
5. Score an achievement level 3, 4, or 5 on the reading end-of-grade (EOG) test.
  - a. If your student is not proficient on the reading EOG test and has not met the Read to Achieve law through one of the previously stated pathways, he or she will have the opportunity to take the reading EOG test again as a retest, the Read to Achieve Test, or the locally approved alternative test.

If your student has not satisfied the requirements of the Read to Achieve law by the end of third grade, he or she can attend a reading camp to help improve reading skills. At the end of reading camp, students achieving proficiency are eligible to be promoted to fourth grade.

Students who do not achieve proficiency at the end of reading camp can be retained in third grade, placed in a transitional third- and fourth-class combination with a retained reading label, or placed in a fourth grade accelerated reading class with a retained reading label. Ninety minutes of uninterrupted reading instruction is provided daily in these classes. Students in the transitional third- and fourth-class combination or fourth-grade accelerated class are eligible to retake the Read to Achieve Test again by November 1 to achieve a mid-year promotion and to have the retained reading label removed. Students will remain in the same fourth-grade class for the entire school year and will continue to receive uninterrupted reading instruction throughout fourth grade to support ongoing improvement in reading skills.

After November 1, non-proficient students may complete a reading portfolio, pass the local alternative assessment, achieve a 725 Lexile on the DIBELS 8 assessment during a benchmark period, or pass the Grade 4 Reading EOG Test by the end of the fourth-grade year and have the retained reading label removed.

If you have questions or concerns about the Read to Achieve law, please contact the principal at the school your child attends.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Taylor  
*RCS Director of Testing and Accountability*