

Third Grade Literacy Law Parent Communication

3rd & 4th Grade Retention

What does the act say about 3rd-grade retention?

Starting in the 2022-2023 school year, 3rd-grade students must score an 'on track' or 'mastered' on TCAP's ELA portion. If students score 'approaching' or 'below,' and do not score proficient on the retest opportunity, they will need to do the following to prevent retention:

Table 1: Student Retention Requirements for 3rd Grade

3rd-Grade students with an 'Approaching' score must:	3rd-Grade students with a 'Below' score must:
Attend learning loss bridge camp and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain 90% camp attendance Demonstrate adequate growth on the state-adopted post-test administered at the end of the camp OR <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the Tennessee Accelerating Literacy and Learning Corps (TN ALL Corps) in the 4th grade 	Attend learning loss bridge camp and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain 90% camp attendance AND <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participate in the Tennessee Accelerating Literacy and Learning Corps (TN ALL Corps) in 4th grade
4th Grade Retention:	
If a student is promoted to 4th grade based on meeting the requirements above, they must demonstrate "adequate growth ... as determined by the department" on the 4th grade ELA TCAP in order to be promoted to 5th grade, but the student may not be retained in 4th grade more than once.	

Which 3rd-grade students are exempt from retention?

- The student is an English language learner and has received less than two (2) years of ELA instruction
- The student was previously retained in any of the grades K-3
- The student retested before the beginning of the next school year and scores proficient in ELA

*Retention and promotion decisions shall be made on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with the student's IEP and/or 504 team to determine whether the student's performance on the ELA TCAP was due to the student's disability

If you have any questions please contact your child's teacher or principal.

(iv) The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the beginning of the upcoming school year, maintains a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate at the camp, and the student's performance on the post-test administered to the student at the end of the learning loss bridge camp, as required under § 49-6-1502(4)(F), demonstrates adequate growth, as determined by the department; or

(v) The student is assigned a tutor through the Tennessee accelerating literacy and learning corps (TALLC) to provide the student with tutoring services for the entirety of the upcoming school year based on tutoring requirements established by the department; and

(B) A student who is not proficient in ELA, as determined by the student's achieving a performance level rating of "below" on the ELA portion of the student's most recent TCAP test may be promoted if:

(i) The student is an English language learner and has received less than two (2) years of ELA instruction;

(ii) The student was previously retained in any of the grades kindergarten through three (K-3);

(iii) The student retested before the beginning the next school year and scores proficient in ELA; or

(iv) The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the beginning of the upcoming school year and maintains a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate at the camp, and is assigned a tutor through the TALLC to provide the student with

(iv) The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the beginning of the upcoming school year, maintains a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate at the camp, and the student's performance on the post-test administered to the student at the end of the learning loss bridge camp, as required under § 49-6-1502(4)(F), demonstrates adequate growth, as determined by the department; or

(v) The student is assigned a tutor through the Tennessee accelerating literacy and learning corps (TALLC) to provide the student with tutoring services for the entirety of the upcoming school year based on tutoring requirements established by the department; and

(B) A student who is not proficient in ELA, as determined by the student's achieving a performance level rating of "below" on the ELA portion of the student's most recent TCAP test may be promoted if:

(i) The student is an English language learner and has received less than two (2) years of ELA instruction;

(ii) The student was previously retained in any of the grades kindergarten through three (K-3);

(iii) The student retested before the beginning the next school year and scores proficient in ELA; or

(iv) The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the beginning of the upcoming school year and maintains a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate at the camp, and is assigned a tutor through the TALLC to provide the student with tutoring services for the entirety of the upcoming school year based on tutoring requirements established by the department. (3)

(A) A student who is promoted to the fourth grade pursuant to subdivision (a)(2)(A)(v) or (a)(2)(B)(iv), must show adequate growth on the fourth grade ELA portion of the TCAP test, as determined by the department, before the student may be promoted to the fifth grade.

(B) Notwithstanding subdivision (a)(3)(A), a student shall not be retained in the fourth grade more than once.