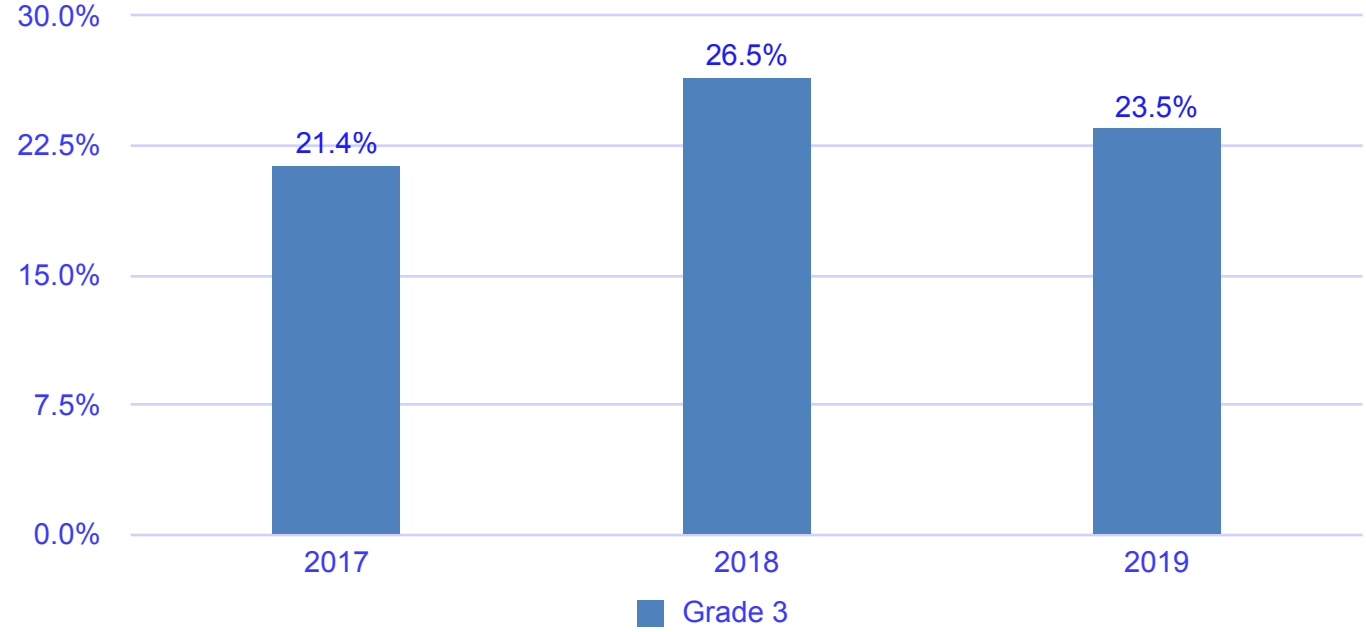
3rd Grade Commitment



For frequent updates and resources: www.scsk12.org/commitment

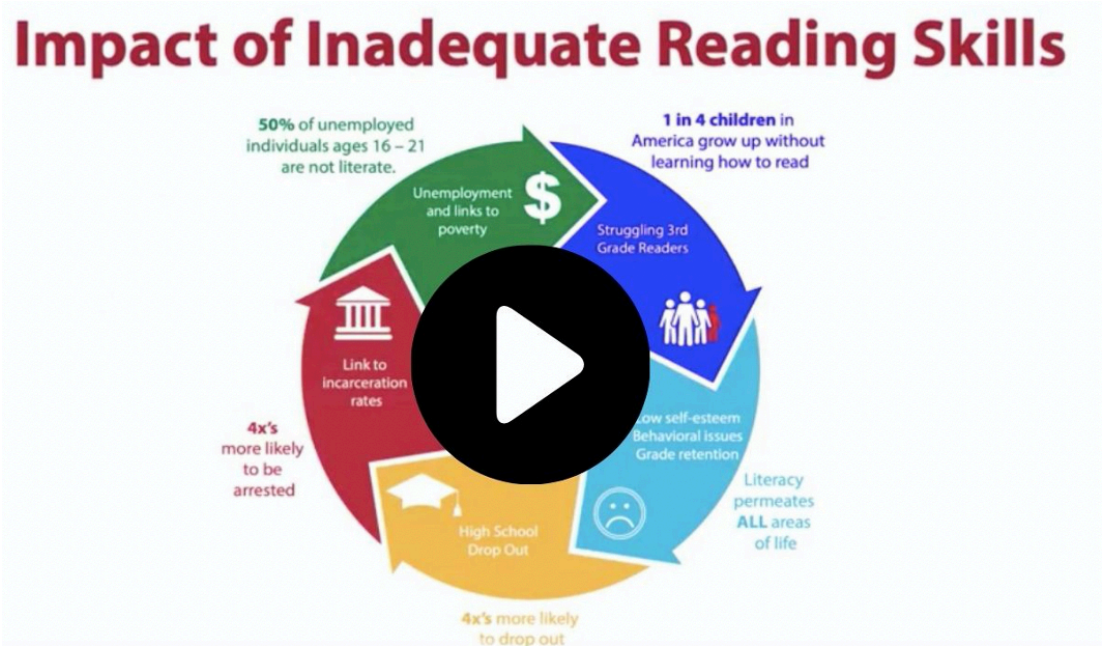
SCS English Language Arts Proficiency



Roughly 76% of 3rd graders are not proficient readers



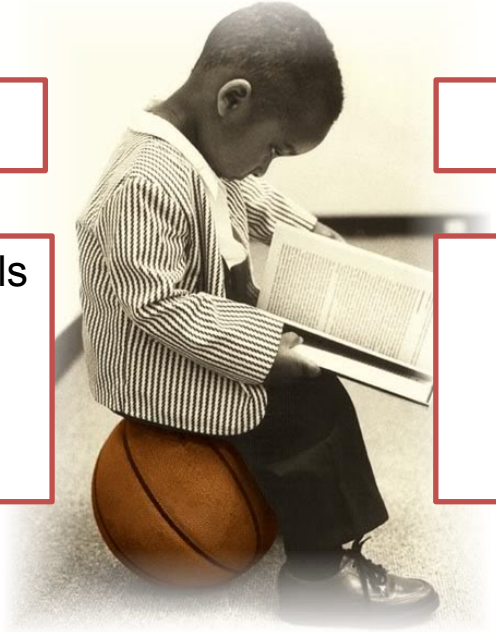
Impact of Inadequate Reading Skills



Learning to Read vs. Reading to Learn

Reading proficiently by the end of third grade is critical because it is a pivotal point that highlights the shift from **learning to read** to **reading to learn**.

Learning to READ	Reading to LEARN
Acquiring & practicing decoding skills Building knowledge to make meaning from print	Fluently reading text with the purpose of gaining knowledge Thinking critically about a topic



Proficient vs. Non-Proficient Readers

Proficient

When students move into fourth grade and higher, skilled (proficient) readers learn knowledge and new words from context, while poor readers, out of frustration, begin to avoid reading.

Non-proficient

The gap between proficient and non-proficient readers increases. In other words, the academically rich get richer and the poor get poorer, as small differences in learning ability grow into large reading gaps, evident in reading data.



3rd Grade Commitment



The 3rd Grade Commitment

- In 2019 the Shelby County School Board voted on a revision the Administrative Rules and Regulations to Policy 5013 Promotion and Retention.
- The revision was created to ensure we hold district and school leaders, teachers, and all stakeholders accountable towards ensuring SCS students have the necessary reading skills to be successful before they reach the third grade.
- Students who meet 8 of 12 Criteria for Success at the conclusion of the second grade, will be eligible for promotion to the third grade.
- The **3rd Grade Commitment** is a collaborative effort between schools, parents and our community towards ensuring we all work together to help SCS students reach reading readiness before the third grade.

What is the 3rd Grade Commitment?

- **Update to SCS Policy 5013 Promotion and Retention**
- **Ensure students have the necessary reading skills they need to be successful before they reach the 3rd grade.**
- **2nd Grade Students must reach (8) of the possible (12) points for promotion into the 3rd grade this school year**

Purpose:

Assess K-2ND grade students, with the stop-gap being 2nd grade, using Success Criteria to ensure students are on track for 3rd grade readiness.

Quarter Grades (4 criteria)	3 Formative Assessment Scores (3 criteria)	Universal Screener (3 criteria)	TN Ready Scores (2 criteria)
•70% or above in ELA	•70% or better in ELA •Sept. 20 – Oct. 8 •Nov. 29 – Dec. 17 •Feb. 28 – Apr. 1	•Aug. 30 – Sept. 17 •Lexile 350 •Jan. 3 – Jan. 21 •Lexile 420 •Apr. 11-15 or May9-20 •Lexile 485	•On Track or Mastery in ELA

Success Criteria for 2nd Grade Promotion

K - 1 supports for 3rd Grade Commitment



Evaluation Criteria for Kindergarten

Report Card Grades (4) Once per quarter	Universal Screener (3)
• 80% or higher in ELA • Quarter 1: 12 Skills • Quarter 2: 13 Skills • Quarter 3: 14 Skills • Quarter 4: 16 Skill • TOTAL skills: 55	• Illuminate/FastBridge Norms – 50% • Fall - 34 • Winter - 52 • Spring - 66

Students must have mastered 80% Literacy Skills per quarter on Report Card Grades and meet Lexile Criteria (not required for promotion)

Skills include: naming uppercase letters, lowercase letters, recognizing rhyming words, understanding syllables, reading sight words, identifying and writing beginning/ending letter sounds.

Evaluation Criteria for 1st Grade

Report Card Grades (4) Once per quarter	Universal Screener (3)
• 70% or higher in ELA	• Fall • Lexile - 120 • Winter • Lexile - 235 • Spring • Lexile - 350

Students must pass 5 of the 7 Success Criteria (not required for promotion)

Any time a student does not meet one or more of the identified Success Criteria, an Academic Support Plan will be created to support the student, and parents will be notified to ensure they know the school is supporting the student and how to help at home.

What parents can expect:



- Personalized Academic Support Plan for each K-3rd grade student
- High quality instruction
- Before, during, and after-school tutoring
- Paraprofessionals (teacher assistants) to support every 2nd Grade class
- Parent At Home Literacy Communication about student progress via parent letters and report cards
- Ongoing parent learning sessions
- Literacy Resources to support at-home reading
- Literacy Events throughout the year
- Access to parent resources via scsk12.org/commitment

Parent Resources

Parent Toolbox

- BookNook Learning: Free ELA gamified instructional lessons to complete with your student. Link to BookNook@Home (for direct parent to child use):
- 3rd grade Commitment Parents' Guide To Student Success
- Literacy Everywhere Brochure
- Understanding the 3rd Grade Commitment PowerPoint Video

Learn About Reading And Literacy

- Sight Words Book
- Sight Words Book (Spanish)
- Read for the Record
- Read to be Ready: A Vision for Third Grade Reading Proficiency in the State of Tennessee
- Understanding "Lexile" Scores
- Reading Rockets – Books and Activities for Summer Reading
- Explore Memphis – Memphis Public Library Summer Reading Program
- Libby – An easy way to borrow and read books online from the Memphis Public Library