

MSCS Literacy Commitment

White Station Elementary



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October 2025



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Agenda

- TN Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act
- Pathways to Fourth Grade
- Additional Opportunities
- Notifications



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TN Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act

What does the TN law say about 3rd graders?

Focus: “Accelerating Student Learning”

“Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, a student in the third grade **shall not** be promoted to the next grade level unless the student is determined to be **proficient** in English Language Arts (ELA) based on the student's achieving a performance level rating of ”**meets**” or ”**exceeds**” on the ELA portion of the student's most recent Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) test.”

Pathways to
4th Grade for
Approaching
and Below
Proficient
Scores

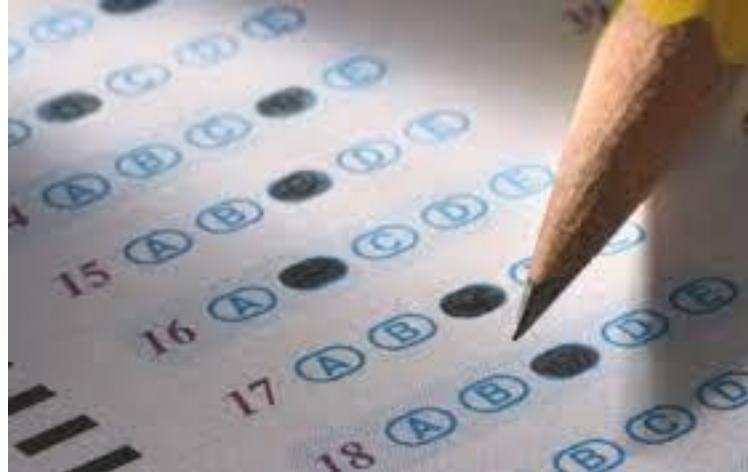




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Approaching

What does the law say about students who score
“approaching” on the TCAP assessment?



A student in grade three (3) who is not proficient in ELA, as determined by the student's achieving a performance level rating of “**approaching**” on the ELA portion of the student's most recent TCAP test, may be promoted to the fourth (4th) grade if:

- 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, demonstrates adequate growth (5 percentage points), as defined in the State Board's Promotion and Retention Policy 3.300; **OR**
- The student receives high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring for the entirety of the upcoming school year from a Tennessee accelerating literacy and learning corps (TALLC) tutor. For the purposes of this rule, “high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring” means a minimum of two (2) thirty (30) minute sessions per week with a one to three (1:3) teacher to student ratio. TALLC high dosage, low ratio tutoring may be provided through the following options,
 - (I) A tutor recruited and trained through the Department's TN ALL Corps program.
 - (II) A district recruited tutor who has completed the Department's TN ALL Corps training.





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Below Proficient

What does the law say about students who score “below proficient” on the TCAP assessment?



A student in grade three (3) 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 to the fourth (4th) grade if:

- 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**
- Receives high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring for the entirety of the upcoming school year from a Tennessee accelerating literacy and learning corps (TALLC) tutor. For the purposes of this rule, “high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring” means a minimum of two (2) thirty (30) minute sessions per week with a one to three (1:3) teacher to student ratio. TALLC high dosage, low ratio tutoring may be provided through the following options,
 - (I) A tutor recruited and trained through the Department’s TN ALL Corps program.
 - (II) A district recruited tutor who has completed the Department’s TN ALL Corps training.



Exemptions to 3rd Grade Retention

Any 3rd grade student can be exempt if they fall within any of these categories.

Exemptions to 3rd Grade Retention

The law includes four exemptions to 3rd grade retention. If a student who scores **BELOW** or **APPROACHING** on the ELA section of the TCAP meets one of these exemptions, they can be promoted to the 4th grade without having to participate in one of the promotion pathways.

The four exemptions include:

- Students who are English Learners (EL) with less than two years of ELA instruction;
- Students who were previously retained;
- Students with a disability that impacts reading; or
- Students with a suspected disability that impacts reading.

Districts must determine whether an individual student meets one of the circumstances that exempts the student from retention. All decisions regarding exemptions must be made on a case-by-case basis considering the unique needs and circumstances of the individual student and documented in the student's file.

Additional Opportunities





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Retake/Retest Opportunities

- If a student scores approaching OR below proficient, he/she will be given the opportunity to retake the ELA portion of the TCAP assessment, which excludes the writing.
- This retake will be administered on the computer.
- The retake dates have not been released as of yet from the state department.

Appeals to the Department

The **Commissioner's designee(s)** may overturn the identification of a student as at risk for retention in third (3rd) grade pursuant to paragraph and allow the student to be promoted to the fourth (4th) grade if one (1) or more of the following grounds is met:

Ground 1:

- The student demonstrated growth above the national norm as demonstrated in the student's composite score from a State Board-approved universal reading screener or the Tennessee universal reading screener administered by the LEA or public charter school
- Students will be administered the aimswebPlus universal screening in ELA Spring 2026; if students score within the 50th percentile on this assessment, they will be eligible to appeal.
- Schools can appeal on the parents behalf, if parents consent to do so.

Ground 2:

- The parent or legal guardian of the student identified as at risk for retention in third (3rd) grade pursuant to paragraph documents that a catastrophic situation occurred during the days leading up to the third (3rd) grade ELA TCAP test administration that impacted the student and impeded the student's ability to perform on the test. Examples of a catastrophic situation include, but are not limited to, a death in the immediate family, loss of a family home, or significant medical diagnosis.



- All 3rd grade students will be administered the aimswebPlus universal screening in ELA Spring 2026.
- If a student with a previous placement of APPROACHING scores within the 50th percentile on this assessment, they are eligible to appeal.

Notifications





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Parent Notification

- By February 1 of each year, parents must be informed if their child is “at risk” of being retained. It is required by the state and letters must be sent home. Teachers are expected to communicate assessment results to **all families** following each iReady Diagnostic window.
- Students are categorized as “at risk” are identified if they score below the 65th percentile on the winter universal reading screener (iReady Diagnostic).



Electronic Parent Acknowledgement-Signature Page in PowerSchool



3rd Grade Parent Acknowledgement-Signature Page

On Tuesday, August 30, 2022, Shelby County School Board members approved the rules and regulations regarding Policy 5013 with the additional guidelines for 3rd and 4th grade as outlined by the state. Therefore, current 2nd-grade students will not be held to any success criteria for retention purposes; however, academic support and intervention must continue for those students.

Beginning this 2022-2023 school year, a student in the third grade shall not be promoted to the next grade level unless the student is determined to be proficient in English Language Arts (ELA) based on the student's achieving a performance level rating of **"on track" (met)** or **"mastered" (exceeds expectations)** on the ELA portion of the student's most recent Tennessee comprehensive assessment program (TCAP) test.

Please sign below to indicate your understanding and support to the [MSCS Literacy Commitment](#) and your student's progress.

I have been informed and understand my child's current progress towards the MSCS Literacy Commitment.

☐ Yes
☐ No

I understand that **if my child does not master/pass the ELA portion of the 2023 Spring TCAP Assessment, then he/she will not be promoted to the next grade** based on the Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act as outlined by the State Department of Education.

☐ Yes
☐ No

Student's Name: _____

Parent's Name (Print) _____

Parent's Signature: _____

School Administrator or Teacher: _____

Date: _____

Time: _____



The purpose of the Parent Acknowledgment- Signature Page is to:

- Indicate your understanding and support to the MSCS Literacy Commitment and your student's progress.
- Acknowledge that you have been informed and understand your child's current progress towards the MSCS Literacy Commitment.
- Acknowledge that you understand that if your child does not master/pass the ELA portion of the 2026 Spring TCAP Assessment, then he/she will not be promoted to the next grade based on the Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act as outlined by the TN Department of Education.



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THANK YOU!



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