

MASTERY, FLUENCY & STRUCTURAL COMPLEXITY

A Family Guide to the New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS) — Grade 3

Welcome to Third Grade!

Third grade is a foundational transitional year marking your child's evolution into advanced text-based analysis, mathematical abstraction, and multi-paragraph compositional planning. Fully aligned with the **New Jersey Student Learning Standards (NJSLS)**, this roadmap outlines the primary benchmarks required for complete grade-level mastery by June. Our district navigates these targets using the state-adopted **Savvas myView Literacy** and **The Ready Math Program** frameworks. To ensure no learning gaps emerge and to calibrate personalized acceleration pathways, progress is actively checked via a comprehensive screening network featuring **DIBELS 8th Edition** and the adaptive **i-Ready Diagnostic Assessment**, administered in the Fall, Winter, and Spring.

The Crucial Role of Parents and Caregivers

As academic structures shift from basic skill mechanical execution to systemic critical reasoning, your daily encouragement at home helps build your third grader's learning stamina and cognitive confidence.



Advanced Literacy Cultivation

- **Engage in Textual Evidence Debates:** When reading together, prompt your child to defend their claims. Ask: *"What specific sentence or paragraph proved that the character was changing their mind?"*
- **Isolate Morphology Structures:** When encountering a complex word, help your child isolate its root, prefixes, and suffixes to decode structural meaning rather than skipping past it.
- **Support Multi-Paragraph Planning:** Encourage your child to organize writing at home by creating short graphic outlines (Introduction, Supporting Evidence, Conclusion) before writing essays.



Advanced Mathematical Discourse

- **Lock In Multiplication Automaticity:** Practice rapid single-digit multiplication and division facts up to 10x10 during everyday routines to secure mandatory computation speed.
- **Model Real-World Fractions:** Point out visual fractions in daily activities, such as dividing cooking measurements, partitioning food portions, or reading tape measures.
- **Evaluate Benchmark Growth Data:** Partner with your child's teacher to review target diagnostics from each testing window, focusing on target home exercises to address operational concepts.



Language Arts & The Savvas myView Program

Third-grade ELA instruction centers on advanced reading comprehension, rich morphological analysis, and structural multi-paragraph writing workshop blocks. Driven by ****Savvas myView Literacy****, classrooms connect text analysis directly with systematic vocabulary tracking.

1. Word Study, Morphology, and Reading Fluency (NJSLS RF.3.3 – RF.3.4)

Phonemic and letter-sound rules expand into advanced word study tracks that focus heavily on structural morphology and vocabulary elements:

- Identify and decode the meanings of common prefixes and derivational suffixes.
- Decode words with common Latin suffixes (e.g., *-able, -tion, -ment*) and irregular multi-syllable spelling patterns.
- Read grade-level irregularly spelled high-frequency words automatically.
- Read grade-level prose and poetry orally with accuracy, an appropriate conversational pace, and proper prosody (expression) to support reading comprehension.

2. Deep Reading Comprehension: Literature & Informational Text (NJSLs RL.3.1 – RI.3.10)

Students transition from basic literal recall to text-dependent critical analysis:

- **Text-Dependent Evidence:** Ask and answer questions to demonstrate understanding of a text, referring explicitly to the text as the basis for answers.
- **Literature Integration:** Determine the central message, lesson, or moral of a story, explaining how it is conveyed through key details. Describe characters in a story (e.g., their traits, motivations, or feelings) and explain how their actions contribute to the sequence of events.
- **Informational Text Logic:** Determine the main idea of a text, recount the key details, and explain how they support the main idea. Describe logical connections between particular sentences and paragraphs (e.g., comparison, cause/effect, sequence). Use text features (e.g., search terms, sidebars, hyperlinks) to locate information efficiently.

3. Structural Writing Composition & Conventions (NJSLs W.3.1 – W.3.3 & L.3.1 – L.3.2)

Using the *myView* Writing Workshop, third graders move beyond single-paragraph layouts to write multi-paragraph compositions with a clear organizational structure across three major text genres:

- **Opinion Writing:** Introducing a topic or text, stating an opinion, creating an organizational structure that lists reasons, using linking words (e.g., *because, therefore, since*) to connect reasons, and providing a concluding statement.
- **Informative & Explanatory Writing:** Naming a topic, grouping related information together visually (including illustrations or charts when useful), developing facts, definitions, and details, and providing a clear concluding section.
- **Narrative Composition:** Establishing a clear situation, introducing a narrator and/or characters, organizing an event sequence that unfolds naturally, using dialogue and descriptions of actions, thoughts, and feelings to develop experiences, and providing a clear sense of closure.

Grammar and Conventions: Correctly use regular and irregular plural nouns, abstract nouns (e.g., *honesty, bravery*), regular and irregular verbs (e.g., *walked, sat, ate*), and simple verb tenses. Ensure pronoun-antecedent agreement. Capitalize appropriate words in titles, historical events, and geographic names. Use commas in addresses and dialogue punctuation, and consult dictionaries to check and correct spelling.

MATH Mathematics & The Ready Math Program

Third-grade mathematics focuses heavily on four core conceptual branches: multiplication and division parameters, early fractional abstraction, two-dimensional geometric properties, and area/perimeter metrics. Driven by Ready Math, classrooms follow a rigorous inquiry cycle: **Try It** (making sense of a problem using concrete tools such as array grids, area models, and fraction tiles),

Discuss It (sharing and comparing strategies through mathematical discourse), and **Connect It** (connecting visual models to abstract algebraic notation and consolidating concepts).

1. Operations and Algebraic Thinking (NJSLS 3.OA.A.1 – 3.OA.D.9)

- **Multiplication & Division Concepts:** Interpret products of whole numbers (e.g., interpret 5×7 as the total number of objects in 5 groups of 7 objects each). Interpret whole-number quotients (e.g., interpret $56 \div 8$ as the number of objects in each share when 56 objects are partitioned equally into 8 shares).
- **Word Problems & Unknowns:** Use multiplication and division within 100 to solve word problems in situations involving equal groups, arrays, and measurement quantities. Determine the unknown whole number in a multiplication or division equation relating three whole numbers.
- **Properties of Operations:** Apply properties of operations as strategies to multiply and divide (e.g., Commutative property: $6 \times 4 = 24$ means $4 \times 6 = 24$; Associative property: $3 \times 5 \times 2$ can be solved as $15 \times 2 = 30$ or $3 \times 10 = 30$; Distributive property: 8×7 can be decomposed as $8 \times (5 + 2) = (8 \times 5) + (8 \times 2) = 40 + 16 = 56$). Understand division as an unknown-factor problem.
- **Fact Fluency Automaticity:** Fluently multiply and divide within 100. By the end of Grade 3, students must demonstrate complete automaticity and memory of all single-digit products through 10×10 .
- **Multi-Step Equations:** Solve two-step word problems using the four operations. Represent these problems using equations with a letter standing for the unknown quantity. Assess the reasonableness of answers using mental computation and estimation strategies including rounding.

2. Number and Operations — Fractions (NJSLS 3.NF.A.1 – 3.NF.A.3)

Fractions are developed as numbers rather than simple shapes, using Ready Math visual fraction strips and number lines:

- Understand a fraction $\frac{1}{b}$ as the quantity formed by 1 part when a whole is partitioned into b equal parts; understand a fraction $\frac{a}{b}$ as the quantity formed by a parts of size $\frac{1}{b}$.
- Represent a fraction on a number line diagram by defining the interval from 0 to 1 as the whole and partitioning it into equal parts.
- Explain equivalence of fractions in special cases, and compare fractions by reasoning about their size. Recognize and generate simple equivalent fractions (e.g., $\frac{1}{2} = \frac{2}{4}$, $\frac{4}{6} = \frac{2}{3}$).
- Express whole numbers as fractions (e.g., $3 = \frac{3}{1}$; $\frac{4}{4} = 1$), and compare two fractions with the same numerator or the same denominator by reasoning about their size, recording comparisons with symbols ($>$, $<$, $=$).

3. Measurement, Data Literacy, and Geometric Integration (NJSLS 3.MD.A.1 – 3.G.A.2)

Students tell and write time to the nearest minute and measure time intervals in minutes, solving word problems involving addition and subtraction of time intervals. They measure and estimate liquid volumes and

masses of objects using standard metric units (grams, kilograms, liters). For data literacy, they draw scaled picture graphs and scaled bar graphs to represent a data set with several categories, solving one- and two-step "how many more" and "how many less" problems using information presented in scaled bar graphs.

Area, Perimeter, and Shapes: Geometric concepts link directly to multiplication. Students measure area by counting unit squares or multiplying side lengths, recognizing area as an attribute of plane figures. They solve real-world problems involving perimeters of polygons, including finding the perimeter given the side lengths or finding an unknown side length. In geometry, they classify shapes by their defining attributes (e.g., quadrilaterals), and partition shapes into parts with equal areas, expressing the area of each part as a unit fraction of the whole.

ASSESS

Assessment in Grade 3: Diagnostic Framework

Third-grade assessments serve as critical monitoring metrics to secure standard proficiency benchmarks and prevent long-term learning gaps. Our district cross-references operational progress by combining the reading indicators of ****DIBELS 8th Edition**** with the comprehensive data tracking of the ****i-Ready Diagnostic Assessment****.

The i-Ready Assessment Structure

The **i-Ready Diagnostic** is an interactive, computer-adaptive monitoring assessment administered three times a year (Fall, Winter, and Spring). The testing software automatically adjusts question complexity based on individual student inputs. This diagnostic profile gives teachers precise insight to target individual student needs, mapping out explicit paths of classroom intervention or enrichment to support state standards.

Assessment Domain	i-Ready Diagnostic Focus (Grade 3)	DIBELS 8th Edition Focus (Grade 3)
Morphology & Advanced Vocabulary	Evaluates understanding of Latin root words, multi-syllable spelling patterns, structural prefixes, suffixes, and contextual paragraph meanings.	Nonsense Word Fluency (NWF): Final monitoring tracks to verify accurate, rapid decoding of complex, unfamiliar phonological configurations.
Reading Comprehension & Prose	Evaluates literary theme identification, character motivation tracking, informational main ideas, text feature navigation, and structural logic.	Oral Reading Fluency (ORF): Evaluates words read correctly per minute from advanced third-grade passages, checking accuracy, speed, and phrasing.
Multiplication & Fractions	Evaluates single-digit automaticity, multi-step problem setups, fraction strip values, line plot charts, and equivalent number reasoning.	<i>Not tracked via DIBELS.</i> Observed via school-level portfolio trackers and Reveal Math diagnostic profiles.
Area, Perimeter, & Geometry	Tests metric units, area models via side length products, polygon perimeter tracking, and quadrilateral classifications.	<i>Not tracked via DIBELS.</i> Observed via school-level portfolio trackers and Reveal Math diagnostic profiles.

Family Resource Hub & Recommended Reading

Leverage these curated books and digital web portals to reinforce your third grader's academic milestones at home.

Highly Recommended Books to Read With Your Third Grader

These targeted early novels and mathematical narratives align perfectly with third-grade structural reading fluency and fractional partition targets:

- **"Charlotte's Web"** by *E.B. White* – Ideal for practicing advanced chapter summaries, analyzing character motivations (traits and feelings), and tracing text-dependent evidence.
- **"The One and Only Ivan"** by *Katherine Applegate* – Superb for exploring multi-layered literary structures, tracing point-of-view changes, and analyzing narrative transitions.
- **"The Wishing Club: A Story About Fractions"** by *Donna Jo Napoli* – Directly visualizes fractional equivalence, parts of a whole, and adding unit fractions through an engaging picture story.

Vetted Curricular & State Web Portals

NJDOE Elementary Curriculum Branch: Official state learning frameworks, assessment timelines, and tools outlining third-grade core benchmarks.

NJDOE Elementary Education Portal

NJSLS Grade 3 ELA Standards: Full state repository detailing specific morphology indicators, text-dependent evidence rules, and multi-paragraph composition guides.

NJ Student Learning Standards for ELA

NJSLS Grade 3 Math Standards: State repository outlining multiplication fluency targets, fraction strip standards, and area/perimeter metric formulas.

NJ Student Learning Standards for Math

Curriculum Associates i-Ready Support Portal: Vetted parent center to analyze scale score diagnostic reports, explore performance criteria, and access printable math practice sheets.

Official i-Ready Family Center