

3rd Grade Statewide Assessment and Scores

Move On When Reading and Retention

A student who fails to exceed the Move On When Reading cut score on the reading portion of the 3rd grade ELA statewide exam is a candidate for retention.

Reminder: Only the reading portion of the exam is used to determine candidates for retention under MOWR and is *not* correlated to the Minimally Proficient score.

Identifying Students Who Are Candidates for Retention

Reach to your District Testing Coordinator (DTC) or School Test Coordinator to find your statewide 3rd Grade ELA Report. Only users in PearsonAccess^{next} (PAN) with District Test Coordinator and School Test Coordinator roles will be able to access data in PAN.

Four Good-Cause Exemptions to Retention

The MOWR legislation was designed with the understanding that some students face unique challenges to learning. There are four exemptions to retention for a student who does obtain a passing score on the reading portion of the 3rd grade ELA statewide exam.

- (i) Is an English learner or a limited English proficient student as defined in section [15-751](#) and has had fewer than THREE (amended by [HB2026](#)) years of English language instruction.
- (ii) Is in the (1) process of a special education referral or evaluation for placement in special education, or (2) has been diagnosed with a significant reading impairment, including dyslexia, or (3) is a child with a disability as defined in section [15-761](#) and the IEP team agrees promotion is appropriate.
- (iii) Demonstrates sufficient reading skills or adequate progress toward sufficient reading skills of the 3rd grade reading standards through a collection of reading assessments*.
- (iv) Receives intervention and remedial services during the summer or subsequent year and demonstrates sufficient reading progress.

*For a video and list of criteria to determine a valid literacy assessment for use with the collection of assessments exemption to retention, see the [Promotion and Retention] tab on the MOWR FAQs [webpage](#).

Students Who Are Retained: Summer School Option

Students who do not meet the MOWR cut score and do not qualify for one of the first three good-cause exemptions may take a summer school intervention course. If, at the end of that intervention, the student demonstrates sufficient progress towards reading as determined by a valid assessment, he may be promoted to the fourth grade with his cohort.

*If a student is unwilling or unable to attend this summer school intervention, then this exemption would not apply. If one of the other three exemptions, also, do not apply, then retention is required.

**For additional guidance on Targeted Summer School Intervention, please visit our Summer School tab on our [FAQs webpage](#).

Students Who Are Retained: Mandatory Supports

Students who repeat the third grade due to MOWR are required to receive more than one of the following supports to help them be successful in learning to read at grade-level.

- Intensive reading instruction before, during, and/or after the regular school day
- Small-group, teacher-led reading instruction that may include computer based or online instruction
- Assignment to a different teacher whose most recent performance evaluation is in one of the top two performance classifications

Students Who Struggle But Who Are Moving to Fourth Grade

If a student passed the MOWR cut score, yet is a struggling reader, interventions and supports should be in place at the start of fourth grade so the student can read at grade-level as quickly as possible.

Reporting to ADE/Procedures

Retention and promotion student counts are submitted to ADE via the following year's MOWR literacy plan portal. No information needs to be submitted to ADE in the spring or during the time that promotion/retention decisions are being made. All statewide assessment reports should be kept in a student's permanent cumulative file along with a 3rd grader's report card.