



Literacy and 3rd Grade Retention Law

Welcome to our Third Grade Literacy Law Parent Communication page. In addition, this page will cover information that will help you better understand the 3rd-grade retention law recently passed by our Tennessee lawmakers and how it may affect your child, and parent resources to help your child at home. JMCSS is committed to your child's academic success and we are glad to have the opportunity to provide your child with the necessary instruction and support he or she may need.

3rd Grade Retention Law

The Tennessee General Assembly has revised the state's law regarding the promotion of students from third grade, [T.C.A. § 49-6-3115](#), and requires students who are determined to need additional supports in reading to receive them before being promoted to fourth grade.

What Parents Need to Know

The law ([TCA 49-6-3115](#))([TCA 49-6-3115](#)) requires that students who score in the bottom two achievement categories on the literacy component of the 3rd grade TCAP, our state's annual comprehensive assessment, receive certain supports or be retained in the third grade. Those supports are summer school and/or tutoring, intervention. To meet the expectations of this law, Jackson- Madison County Schools will be hosting a summer school for current third graders and will continue providing literacy tutoring offerings for students in the 2023-24 school year.



If a student does not receive a “met expectations” or “exceeds expectations” score on their ELA TCAP in third grade, elementary schools in Tennessee must provide multiple opportunities for intervention.

1. **Retake of the ELA section of the third grade TCAP:** This option is available for students who scored “approaching expectations” or “below expectations” on the ELA section of their third grade TCAP. The state will provide

- a retake option over the summer prior to the student's fourth grade school year.
2. **Summer Bridge Camp:** This four-to-six-week summer camp would occur between the third and fourth grade school year. A student must attend 90% of summer lessons and make adequate growth on their post-test at the end of summer camp. This option is available for students who scored "approaching expectations" or "below expectations" on the ELA section of their third grade TCAP.
 3. **High-dosage, low-ratio tutoring (TN ALL Corps or equivalent):** Fourth grade high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring that occurs twice a week for 30 minutes. This tutoring must occur for the duration of the fourth-grade school year and is available for students who scored "approaching expectations" or "below expectations."

Please note if a student scored "below expectations" on their ELA section of TCAP, the student must participate in multiple interventions including summer camp and high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring, if the parent and district elect a path other than retention.

Promotion Criteria for Students Identified for Retention

For students scoring "**below expectations**" on the TCAP, students identified for retention may be promoted if:

- The student is an English language learner and has received less than two years of ELA instruction,
- The student has a disability or suspected disability that impacts reading, **OR**
- The student was previously retained prior to their current third grade year.

Additionally, students scoring "below expectations" on the TCAP may be promoted if the following

interventions are provided:

- The student attends a learning loss bridge camp, maintains a 90% attendance rate at the camp, **AND**
- The student receives high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring using the TN ALL Corps grant or an equivalent high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring model for the entirety of fourth grade,
- The student may be promoted from fourth grade to fifth grade if the student demonstrates adequate growth on their fourth grade ELA TCAP. A student may only be retained in fourth grade one time.

For students scoring "**approaching expectations**" on their TCAP in ELA, students identified for retention may be promoted if:

- The student is an English language learner and has received less than two years of ELA instruction,
- The student has a disability or suspected disability that impacts reading, **OR**
- The student was previously retained prior to their current third grade year.

Additionally, students scoring “approaching expectations” may be promoted if the following interventions are provided:

- The student attends a summer learning camp, maintains a 90% attendance rate at the camp, and demonstrates adequate growth on the post-test, **OR**
- The student receives high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring using the TN ALL Corps grant or an equivalent high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring model (Tier III RT¹²) for the entirety of fourth grade.
 - If a student is promoted through high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring to the fourth grade, then the student may be promoted from fourth grade to fifth grade if the student demonstrates adequate growth on their fourth grade ELA TCAP. A student may only be retained in fourth grade one time.

APPROACHING

- Summer School **OR**
- Tutoring

BELOW

- Summer School **AND**
- Tutoring

Student Exemptions to 3rd Grade Retention Law

If your child scores “Approaching” or “Below” on the third grade ELA TNReady/TCAP, your child will **NOT** be retained if **ANY** of the following are true:

| YOUR CHILD SCORES “APPROACHING” | YOUR CHILD SCORES “BELOW” |
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| My child has a disability. | My child has a disability. |
| My child is an English learner and has received less than two (2) years of English instruction. | My child is an English learner and has received less than two (2) years of English instruction. |
| My child has been retained previously. | My child has been retained previously. |
| My child has a suspected disability* that impacts literacy development. | My child has a suspected disability* that impacts literacy development. |
| My child was on-grade level on the re-take test. | My child was on-grade level on the re-take test. |
| I enrolled my child in summer programming with 90% attendance and made adequate growth. | I enrolled my child in summer programming with 90% attendance and made adequate growth. AND I allow my child to receive free tutoring at school during 4 th grade. |
| I allow my child to receive free tutoring at school during 4 th grade. | |

When will I know if this applies to my student?

Throughout the school year, parents will be informed of their child's progress as they prepare to take the TNReady/TCAP assessment. We will use our Aimsweb, universal reading screener in Fall, Winter and Spring, to communicate to parents of their student’s current Reading progress and use these Aimsweb reports to identify if additional supports are needed to support your child’s reading deficits and whether or not your student is likely to fall into the below or approaching categories on TNReady.

We expect 3rd grade TNReady/TCAP scores to be returned to the district in late May. Your students' school will notify you with your student's 3rd grade scores immediately following their release, along with the options for summer school and/or tutoring.

Is My Student Eligible to Appeal a Retention Decision?

If the 3rd grade student received an "approaching" score on the TCAP ELA test, the parent or guardian may complete this appeal form to request the student's promotion to 4th grade.

Note: If the appeal is approved, then the student may be promoted to the next grade but would not necessarily receive any additional learning supports that may benefit them.

If the 3rd grade student received a "below" score on the TCAP ELA test or the summer retake, this form does not apply, and the student is not eligible for an appeal. In this case, your school will offer free summer school and/or tutoring supports to support your student in being able to move on to 4th grade.

Please Click Here to Appeal

Parent Literacy Resources



[Governor's Early Literacy Foundation - Family Reading Time at Home Guides](#)

Looking for a way to enrich story time with your child? These one-page help sheets provide families with discussion questions, activities, and a helpful book summary – all designed to make reading even more fun!



[Reading 360 - Family Reading Resources](#)

Students can learn a lot about reading from their families. This flyer provides activities to promote the sounds-first approach to

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| | reading, to model positive reading behaviors, and to support struggling readers. |
|  | <p><u>Starting with Sounds</u></p> <p>In collaboration with Tennessee’s six PBS stations, the Tennessee Department of Education created “Starting with Sounds” to highlight the importance of early literacy and how families and students can practice reading.</p> |
|  | <p><u>Literacy Foundational Skills Online Tool</u></p> <p>Practice makes reading and writing easier, and this list of family-friendly activities will help support literacy development at home.</p> |
|  | <p><u>Thousands of free teaching resources including videos, lesson plans, and games aligned to state and national standards.</u></p> |
|  | <p><u>Dolly Parton’s Imagination Library</u> is a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five, no matter their family’s income.</p> |
|  | <p>Homework Hotline’s mission is to help Tennessee students in grades K-12 learn, understand and complete challenging assignments, and master new concepts through free one-on-one tutoring by phone and online chat.</p> <p>Monday-Thursday 3pm-8pm Central</p> |