

Facts for Families: What is the Read by Grade Three Law?

In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed a law that requires schools to identify learners who are struggling with reading and writing and to provide additional help. The law states that third graders may repeat third grade if they are more than one grade level behind beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. These *Facts for Families* help families understand the Read by Grade Three Law so they can support their child.



How is my child identified as having a reading concern?

Assessments are given to all children who are in Kindergarten through Third grade **within 30 days of the first day of school**. An Individualized Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) will be written for all learners who have been identified through these assessments as having a reading concern.

When is an Individualized Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) developed?

An IRIP is developed following identification of a reading concern **within 30 days** of the screening assessment. The IRIP is developed with the help of teachers, the principal, parent or legal guardian, and anyone else that the team agrees needs to be involved. Your child will remain on an IRIP as long as there is a reading concern. Your child will be assessed several times through the year to check on their progress. IRIPs should be updated to reflect the needs of your child.

What is the “Read at Home” plan?

A “Read at Home” plan is developed between the school and family to develop efforts you will take to support your child at home. Resources and activities are provided to families.

What if my child’s reading does not improve?

Your child will take the M-STEP in the spring of their third-grade year. The M-STEP is the Michigan Student Test of Educational Progress. The M-STEP measures what your child should be able to know and do. If your child scores one or more grade level behind the third-grade reading level, then a notification will be generated for you and your child’s school that your child **may** be retained.

Facts for Families:

What is a Good Cause Exemption Process?

What is a Good Cause Exemption?

A specific reason within the law for a child to be promoted to 4th grade.

In 2016, the Michigan Legislature passed the Read by Grade Three Law that requires schools to identify and support students in grades Kindergarten through third grade who are struggling with reading and writing. The law states that third graders may be retained if they are more than one grade level behind at the end of the 2019-20 school year. This document explains what the law calls a **Good Cause Exemption**.

Who can ask for a Good Cause Exemption?

- A parent or guardian of a third grader.
- The third grade teacher.
- The Individualized Education Program (IEP) or 504 Coordinator.

When do I apply for a Good Cause Exemption?

Within 30 days of being notified that your child may be retained.

What does the law offer as a Good Cause Exemption?

If a child has:

- An Individualized Education Program (IEP)
- A Section 504 Plan
- Limited English with less than three years of instruction in an English Language Learner (EL) Program.
- Received intensive reading intervention for 2 or more years, and was retained in kindergarten, 1st, or 2nd grade.
- Been enrolled in their current school for less than two years and there is evidence that your child was not provided with an appropriate individual reading improvement plan (IRIP).

Or the child's parent or legal guardian has requested, in the appropriate timeframe:

- The child not be retained, and the superintendent, chief administrator, or his or her designee has determined that promotion is in the best interest of the child.

How do I request a Good Cause Exemption?

Contact the school where your child will be attending 4th grade and ask about their Good Cause Exemption Process.

What happens when I request a Good Cause Exemption?

The superintendent, or their designee, will review the request and make the final decision **at least 30 days** before the first day of school. This decision is final.



What support will my child get if they are retained in 3rd grade? AND What support will my child get if they are promoted to the 4th grade?

- Your child will receive appropriate reading support at school.
- You and your child may be provided with a "Read at Home" plan with activities to help your child at home.

