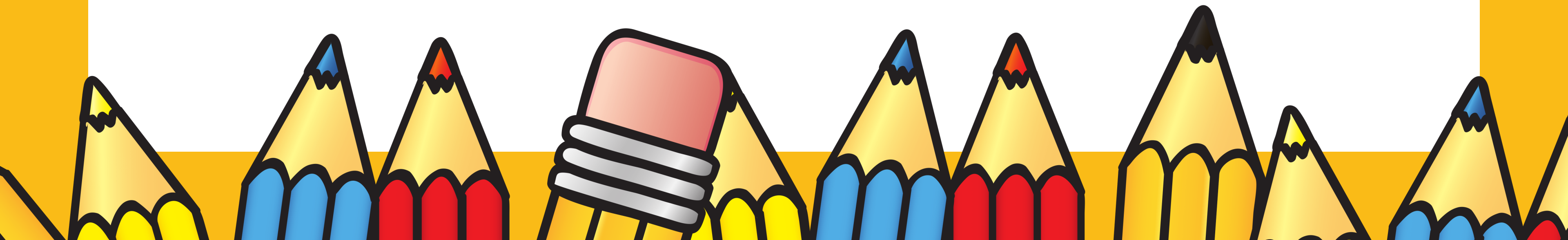




Third Grade Retention Law

Fall 2023



3rd Grade Reading and Retention Research



Reading proficiently by 3rd grade is highly correlated with high school completion, socioeconomic status, and lifelong health and wellness. One-in-six children who are not reading at grade-level proficiency by 3rd grade will not graduate from high school.

Around third grade, children transition from “learning to read” to “reading to learn,” a turning point upon which their future learning and educational success depends.

Retention means to repeat a grade. Research has shown that retaining students may produce short-term positive outcomes but may in fact lead to more significant negative academic and non-academic outcomes in the long term.



Third Grade Retention Law

T.C.A. 49-6-3115

The General Assembly passed this law to help ensure Tennessee students could recover from the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic and close learning gaps. This law also ensures students receive additional supports before promotion to fourth grade.



What do we teach?

ELA Standards

ELA Standards are determined by the state and include:

- Writing
- Speaking and Listening
- Reading
- Language

Comprehensive List:

https://www.tn.gov/content/dam/tn/stateboardofeducation/documents/masvemeetingsfolder/meetingfiles4/10-20-17_III_J_Non-Substantive_Changes_to_Math_ELA__Science_Standards_Attachment_2_EL.A.pdf



What is TCAP?

- **TCAP: Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program**
- **TCAP is given to students in Grades 3-8 in various subjects to assess the standards.**
- **Tests will be given in April during the state window.**
 - **April 15th, 16th, 17th**
- **Results regarding performance levels typically come mid-June.**

Third grade students will be tested in ELA (English Language Arts), Math, and Science.

The law only applies to ELA for 3rd Graders.



3rd Grade ELA Testing Times (English Language Arts)



- Subpart 1: 80 minutes
- Subpart 2: 30 minutes
- Subpart 3: 40 minutes
- Subpart 4: 30 minutes
- Total: 180 minutes

TCAP Performance Levels

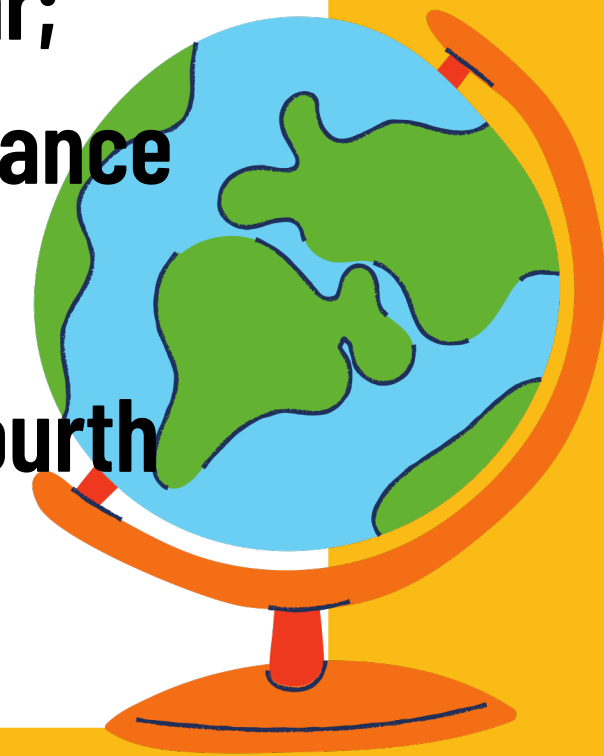
- **Level 1: Below Expectations (Non-Proficient)**
- **Level 2: Approaching Expectations (Non-Proficient)**
- **Level 3: Met Expectations (Proficient)**
- **Level 4: Exceeded Expectations (Proficient)**



Level 1 - Below Expectations

T.C.A. 49-6-3115 provides that a 3rd grade student who is NOT proficient in ELA (English Language Arts) as determined by the student achieving a performance level rating of "below" on the ELA portion of the student's most recent TCAP test may be promoted if:

- a. The student is an English language learner and has received less than two years of ELA instruction;
- b. The student has an IEP that outlines deficiencies in reading;
- c. The student was previously retained in grade K through 3 prior to this year;
- d. The student attends a learning loss bridge camp, maintains a 90% attendance rate at the camp, and demonstrates adequate growth on the post-test; AND
- e. The student receives high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring for the entirety of fourth grade.



Level 2 - Approaching Expectations

T.C.A. 49-6-3115 provides that a 3rd grade student who is NOT proficient in ELA (English Language Arts) as determined by the student achieving a performance level rating of **“approaching”** on the ELA portion of the student’s most recent TCAP test may be promoted if:

- a. The student is an English language learner and has received less than two years of ELA instruction;
- b. The student has a disability or suspected disability that impacts reading;
- c. The student was previously retained in grade K through 3 prior to this year;
- d. The student attends a learning loss bridge camp, maintains a 90% attendance rate at the camp, and demonstrates adequate growth on the post-test; OR
- e. The student receives high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring for the entirety of the fourth grade



Level 2 - Approaching Expectations

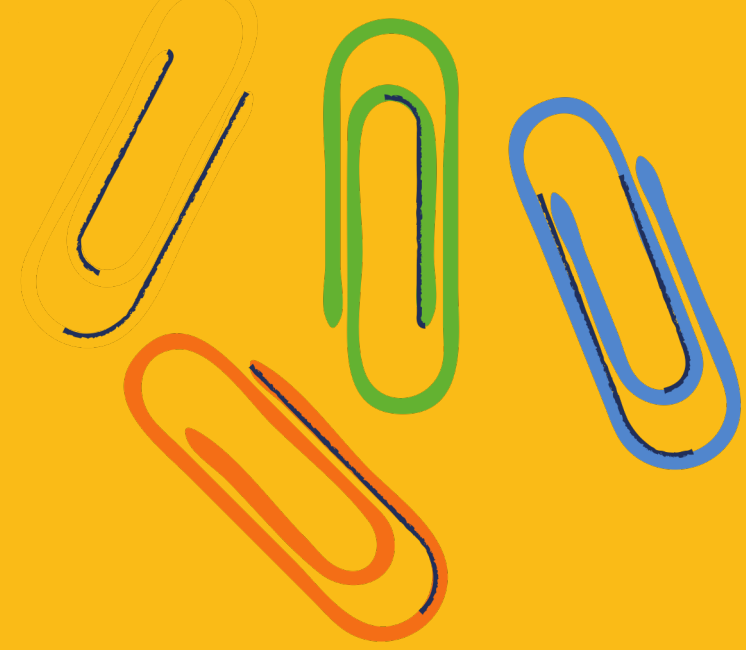
- Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, a student can be promoted to the 4th grade if the student demonstrates proficiency in ELA standards based on the student's scoring within the fiftieth percentile on the most recently administered state-provided benchmark(Aimsweb Plus) AND the student's LEA agrees to provide tutoring services to the student for the entirety of the student's fourth-grade year based on the requirements established by the department.
- If a student is promoted to the 4th grade through this promotion pathway, parents are highly encouraged to enroll their student in the learning loss bridge camp during the summer.



ELA TCAP Retake

This state will provide a retake option over the summer prior to the student's fourth grade school year.

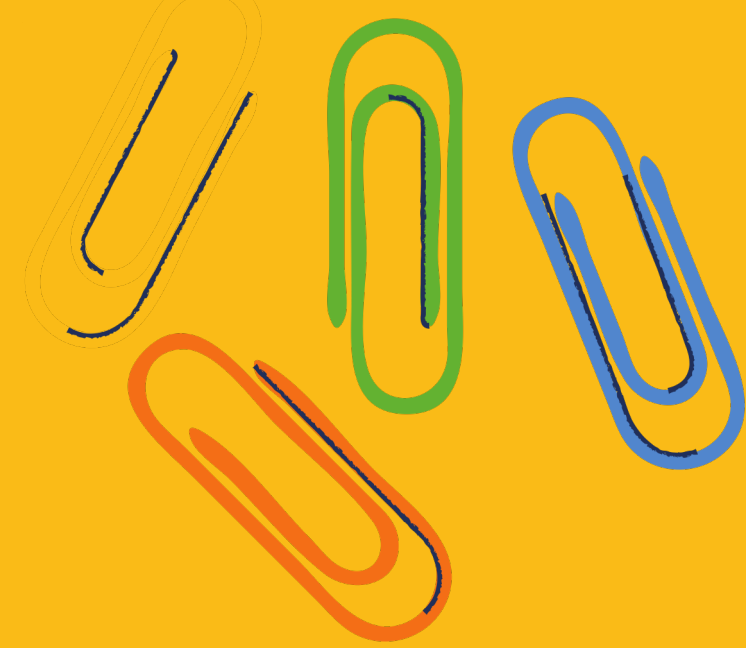
Last year we were able to administer the retake during the school day the last week of school.



Promotion to Fourth Grade

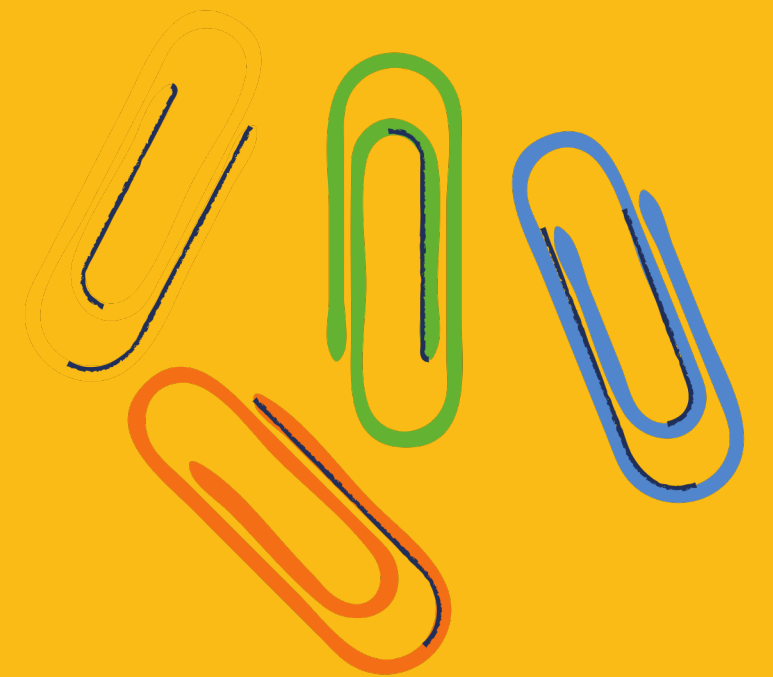
A student who is promoted to the fourth grade pursuant to this process must show adequate growth on the fourth grade ELA portion of the TCAP test, as determined by the Department of Education, before the student may be promoted to fifth grade.

Note: "Adequate growth" has not been defined by the Department of Education yet.



High-Quality Instructional Materials

Coffee County
Schools uses
Wonders 2020-
McGraw Hill as its
HQIM in ELA.



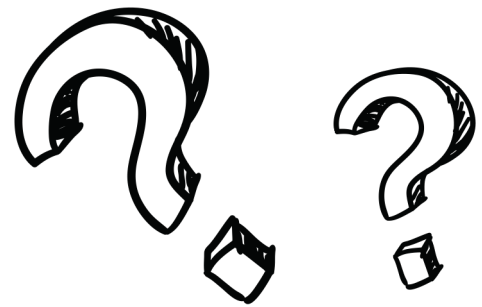
Family Appeal Process

A family of a student scoring “approaching expectations” can choose to appeal the decision for retention. (This option is not available to students who score at a level of “below expectations.”) Students and families who have experienced a catastrophic personal situation also may be eligible to file appeals.

All appeals must be filed by the student’s parent or guardian. Schools will support families seeking to appeal a retention determination by providing relevant data required to complete and submit an appeal to the department.

Please contact us for the details needed to file an appeal.





Do you have any questions about the
3rd Grade Retention Law?





Thank you!

