



\* East Coffee Elementary

# Third Grade Success

Understanding Retention and Testing  
Requirements for Parents

February 5, 2026 - 4pm



# Agenda Overview

Here's what we will cover today regarding retention, promotion and testing



Testing Requirements



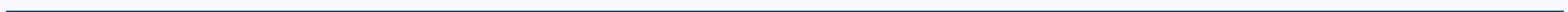
Retention Policies



Pathways to Promotion



Call to Action



Literacy is crucial for **third graders' success**.

# 75% reading proficiency

Key to future academic achievement

Achieving **proficient reading levels** by third grade dramatically improves students' chances for success in higher grades and beyond.



# Key Testing Requirements



Tennessee Comprehensive  
Assessment Program

**TCAP**

## ELA Assessments

Students must demonstrate proficiency in grade-level reading and writing skills.

## Math Assessments

Students will be evaluated on their understanding of mathematical concepts.

## Science Assessments

Assessments will gauge students' knowledge of basic scientific principles.



# Specific Testing Requirements

## ELA (English Language Arts)

Subpart 1 - 80 minutes (split into 4 sections: 15, 25, 15, 25); 20 minutes **additional time** (5 min per section)

Subpart 2 - 30 minutes; 6 minutes **additional time**.

Subpart 3 - 40 minutes; 8 minutes **additional time**.

Subpart 4 - 30 minutes; 6 minutes **additional time**.<sup>3</sup>

**Total Testing Time: 180 minutes (220 with additional time)**



# Specific Testing Requirements

## Mathematics

Subpart 1 - 50 minutes; 10 minutes **additional time**; No calculator

Subpart 2 - 30 minutes; 6 minutes **additional time**; Calculator

Subpart 3 - 30 minutes; 6 minutes **additional time**; Calculator

**Total Testing Time: 110 minutes (132 with additional time)**



# Specific Testing Requirements

## Science

Subpart 1 - 60 minutes; 12 minutes **additional time**.

\*Only one subpart for this test



# TCAP Testing Dates

## ELA

Monday, April 13 - ELA Subpart 1

Tuesday, April 14 - ELA Subparts 2 & 3

Wednesday, April 15 - ELA Subpart 4

\*Makeups completed throughout the week

## Math

Monday, April 20 - Math Subpart 1

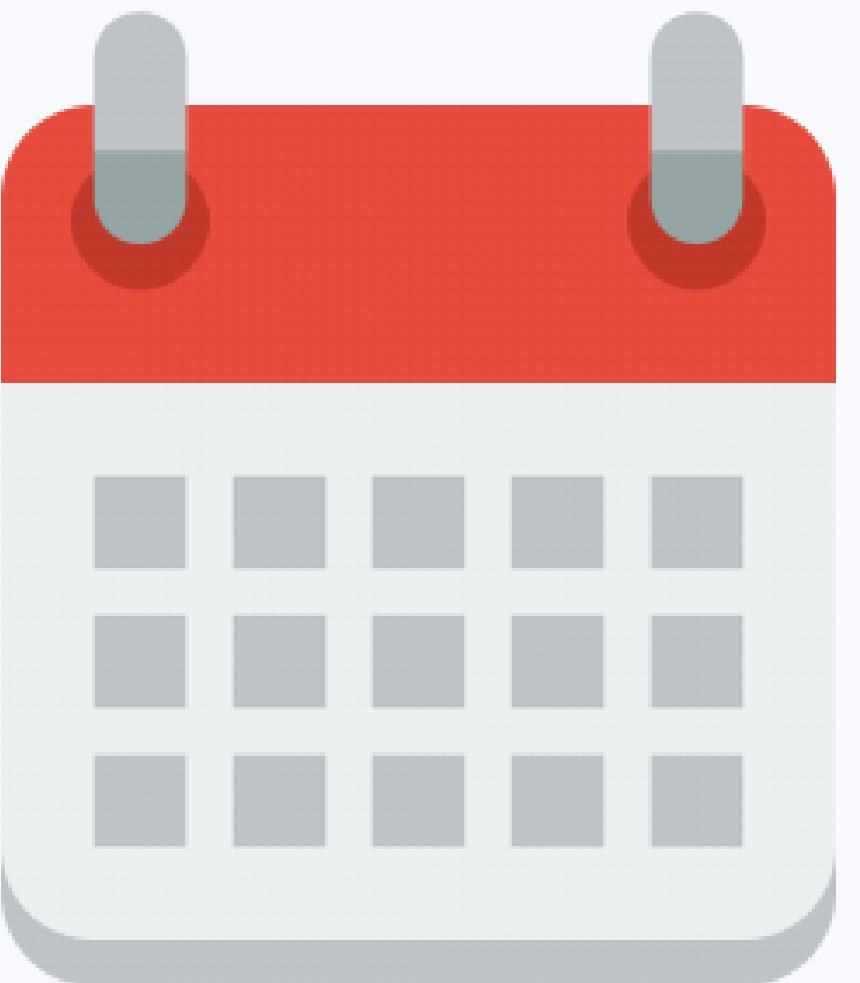
Tuesday, April 21 - Math Subparts 2 & 3

\*Makeups completed throughout the week

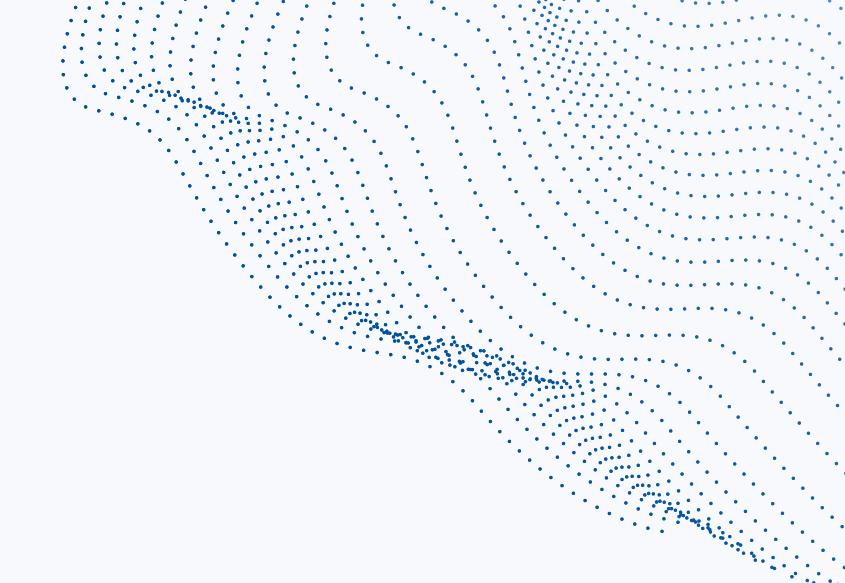
## Science

Wednesday, April 22 - Science Subpart 1

\*Makeups completed throughout the week



# Retention Criteria Overview



## **State Law**

What does the law state?

## **Testing and Beyond**

How does the test affect retention?

## **Promotion Pathways**

What happens if my child is recommended for retention?

## **East Coffee & Coffee Co. Schools**

How does this look at East Coffee and Coffee Co. Schools?



# State Retention Law

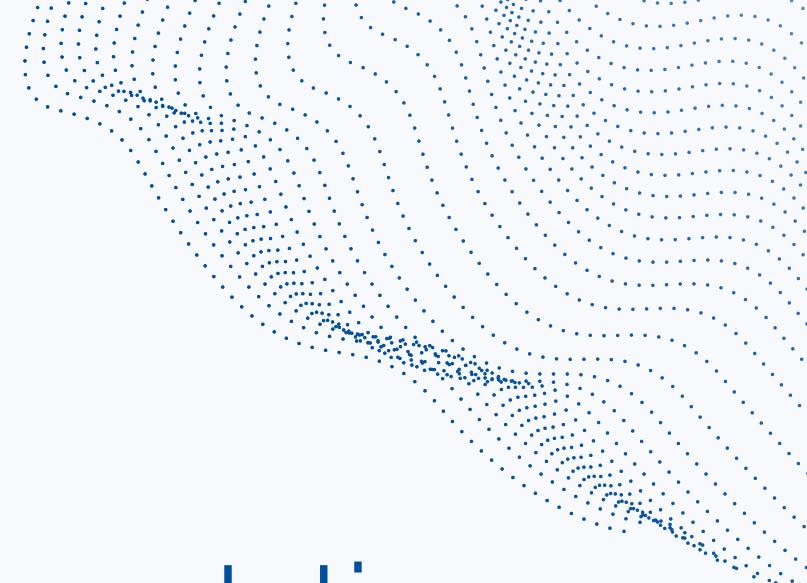


The Tennessee General Assembly passed two key pieces of legislation during the 1st Extraordinary Session of the 112th General Assembly—the Tennessee Literacy Success Act and the Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act. As part of this legislation, the General Assembly updated the state's third grade promotion law, T.C.A. § 49-6-3115, to ensure students who do not reach proficiency on the third grade ELA Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) receive additional supports before promotion to fourth grade. Since the passing of the original legislation, additional updates to T.C.A. § 49-6-3115 have included support requirements for students retained in kindergarten through second grade, additional promotional pathways for third grade students, and an alternate promotion pathway for fourth grade students who were required to score proficient or met an adequate growth target on the fourth grade ELA TCAP but did not meet the requirement.

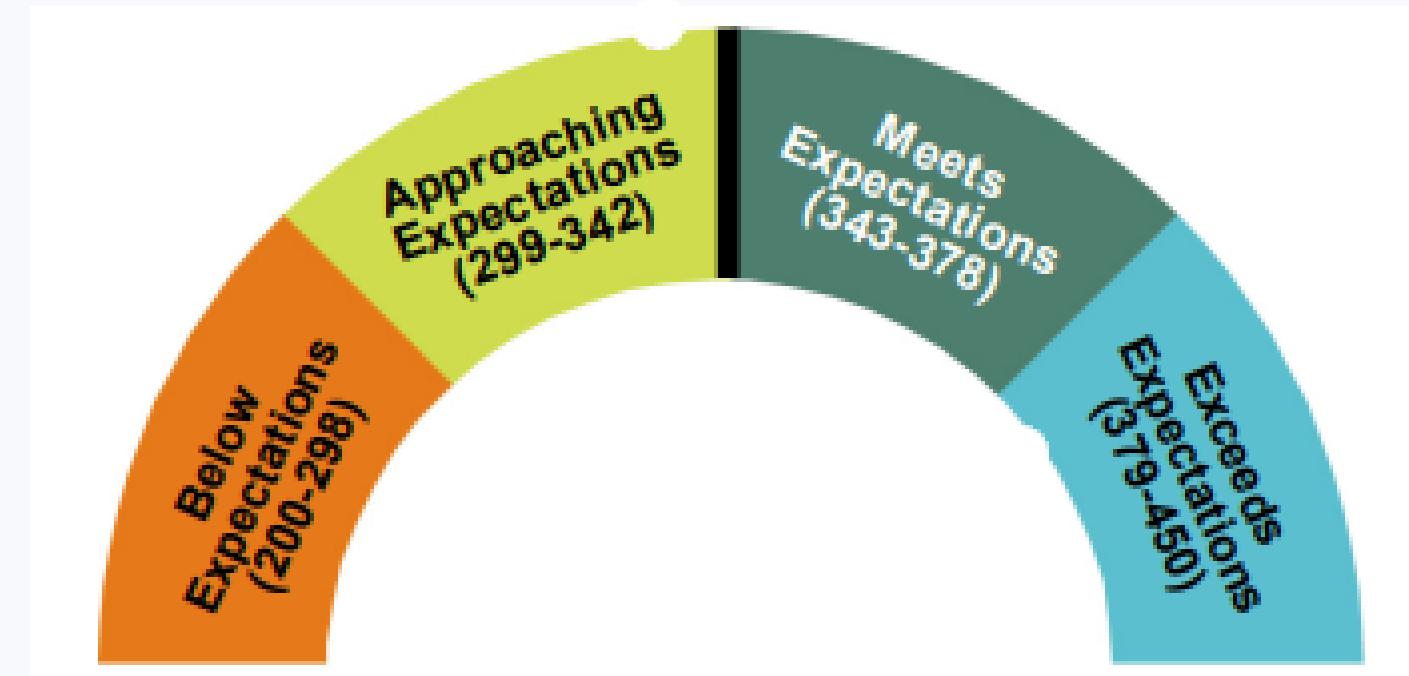


# State Retention Law

In simpler terms, if a third grade student does not meet expectations on the TCAP ELA assessment, they should not be promoted to fourth grade unless certain pathways are taken after the assessment.



# Testing and Beyond



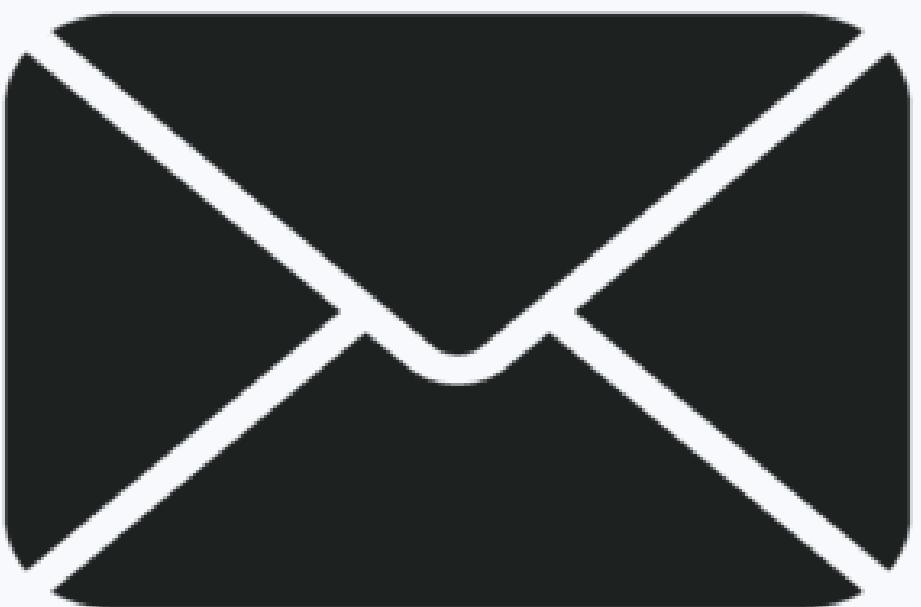
\*This diagram shows a previous year's cut scores.

- Students who score in the Meets Expectations or Exceeds Expectations range are automatically promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> grade.
- Students who score in the Below Expectations or Approaching Expectations range must take specific pathways to be promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> grade or repeat 3<sup>rd</sup> grade.



# Testing and Beyond

- Schools will receive scores within the last two weeks of school.
- We will notify all affected families as soon as we know these results.
- We will go over all promotion and retention options for your student.

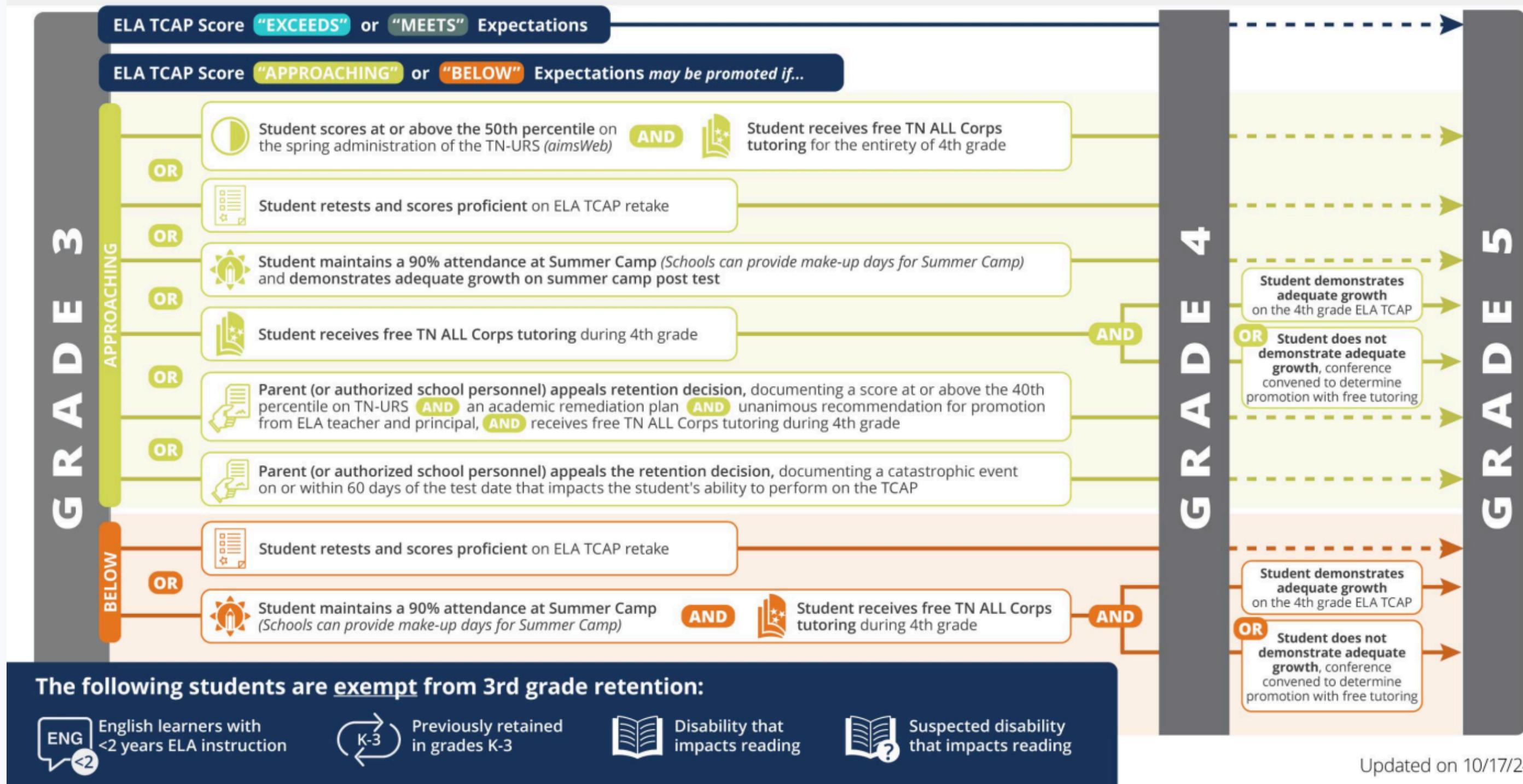


# Promotion Pathways



## Tennessee's Pathways to Promotion for 3rd & 4th Graders

Updated for the 2024-25  
School Year and Beyond



# East Coffee & Coffee Co. Schools

- Spring Aimsweb will be completed within the first two weeks of May.
- ELA TCAP Retake is typically administered during the last week of school.
- Summer Learning Camp takes place at New Union during the month of June, Mon-Thu, typical school hours.
- Appeal window opens shortly after we receive results
- Tutoring takes place during the school day with a certified teacher or ALL Corps-trained EA.



# Call To Action (What can we do?)

- At East Coffee, we are working closely with ELA teachers and planning strong, standards-based lessons in order to prepare students for the assessment.
- At home, have students read books that interest them. Ask them questions about what they are reading. What's it about? What's the problem in the story? What have you learned from reading this?
- Ensure homework is completed. Ask your child if they understand it.



# Contact Information & Resources

ClassDojo

**Mr. Keith & Mrs. Tucker - Administration**

**Mr. Eaton & Ms. Wilson - 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teachers**

**Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Lawson, Mrs. Meeks - Interventionists**

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Phone

**931-723-5185**

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TN Dept. of Education

**Learning Acceleration Landing Page**

**Promotion & Retention Guidelines**

**Promotion Pathways Flowchart**