



# ALABAMA LITERACY ACT Frequently Asked Questions

FOR K-3 FAMILIES



## What is the **ALABAMA LITERACY ACT?**

The Alabama Literacy Act was passed in 2019 to help improve reading in Alabama public schools to ensure students are reading on grade level by the end of the 3rd grade. Reading is the gateway to lifelong achievement and the students of Alabama deserve a strong start on their path to success.

### **How will families be informed about their child's progress?** ◀ ◀ ◀

Each student in kindergarten through 3rd grade will have his/her reading assessed at the beginning, middle, and end of the school year. These assessments will identify students who need intensive reading instruction and intervention. These assessments also provide useful information for the teacher to help tailor instruction to meet individual student needs. Families should receive these results in writing within a designated time frame.

### **Why focus on literacy?** ◀ ◀

By 3rd grade, students must be proficient in foundational reading skills in order to comprehend texts. If they are unsuccessful, they will have difficulty understanding grade level reading material. Students also need strong reading skills in order to learn other school subjects such as science, social studies, writing, and even math.

### **What is The Alabama State Board of Education approved assessment that is required for promotion to the 4th grade?** ◀ ◀ ◀

The Board approved assessment is the reading portion of the 3rd grade Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) English Language Arts assessment. The ACAP summative is a required test for all third grade students to initiate a path to promotion. Students not demonstrating sufficient reading skills may be retained at the end of 3rd grade, if unable to show sufficient reading skills by one of the other paths to promotion. Your child's school will provide interventions to help your child.

### **How will schools help students who are retained in 3rd grade because the student does not meet the promotion requirement?** ◀ ◀ ◀ ◀ ◀

Students retained in 3rd grade will receive more intensive reading intervention services including:

- Offer summer reading camps and Alabama Summer Achievement Program (ASAP) shall be made available to all K-3 students in public elementary schools that are among the lowest performing 5% in reading;
- Offer before or after school intervention tutoring throughout the year to support learning;
- Provide reading instruction that is grounded in the science of reading;
- Provide frequent monitoring to help ensure students are progressing and on track to meet grade-level reading standards; [2021 Alabama Course of Study: English Language Arts](#);
- Provide families with a Read-at-Home Plan.

*If your child is reading below grade level or is struggling with reading, his/her teacher will inform you of the reading deficits that have been identified.*

*The teacher will provide your child with additional reading instruction and support, and you will be given strategies to help your child at home.*

*If your child does not demonstrate sufficient reading skills at the end of 3rd grade, you will receive notification that he/she may not be promoted to 4th grade.*

