Starting in 2019-20, a student will not be promoted to 4th grade unless he/she:

- Receives a reading score of less than 1 year behind on grade 3 ELA state assessment (M-STEP)
- Shows a grade 3 reading level on another test approved by superintendent of public instruction
- Shows a grade 3 reading level through a portfolio, or collection, of student work in all grade 3 ELA standards
- A child will only be required to repeat 3rd grade once

DID YOU KNOW?
Public Act 306 is a new Michigan Law that requires school districts to do the following to boost reading achievement:

- Provide Early Literacy Coaches to assist Kindergarten to 3rd Grade teachers in being the best teachers of reading
- Assess students to see who will need extra support
- Implement an Individual Reading Improvement Plan (IRIP) for student who need extra support
- Work with parents to develop a Read At Home Plan

The goal is to have students reading proficiently by grade 3 in 2019-2020.

Saginaw Public Schools is working now to be ready to roll out this initiative starting this Fall. Look for more information soon.
What families can do to support reading and writing
For children and families Kindergarten to Third Grade

Promote Reading and Writing
- Have books throughout the home and in a special place. This helps children see themselves as readers and writers.
- Have fun! Write letters to friends and family. Read a recipe. Read and write together to make it fun!
- Be an adult reader so your child sees you reading.

Have Patience
- When children are trying to sound out an unfamiliar word, give them time to do so.
- Help your child look closely at the first letter or letters of the word.
- Explain words that your child does not understand.

Talk About What You Read
- Ask your child questions about the story.
- Lead with questions such as, “Why do you think the fish might have done that?” or “What do you think will happen next?”
- Connect what you read with conversations, such as, “if the children in this story did a clean-up day for Earth Day, what do you think we could do for Earth Day?”

Encourage Writing
- Provide a place - it is important for children to have a place to write like a desk or table.
- Explain to your child why writing is important as you do things like making grocery lists or text.

Read Aloud Together
- Story books are fun and so are informational books, magazines, and newspapers. Try reading different types of materials with your child.
- Did you find a new word? Talk about the word, discuss examples, and find ways to use the word. The more we use a new word, the better we learn it.

Read Everywhere
- Provide things to read all over the home like storybooks, newspapers, or poetry.
- Find books or other reading material tied to your child’s interests!
- Read and talk about signs in the environment.

For Michigan’s Read by Grade Three Guide, please visit: bit.ly/Read_by_Gr3_Guide
Do you have more questions? Email: mde-earlyliteracy@michigan.gov
Reading is the gateway to new ideas!

Reading empowers children to stretch their imaginations, explore their world, and discover all of its exciting possibilities. Parents and families have an important role to play in helping children become strong readers. Cut out and use these handy bookmarks to support reading at home. Each bookmark includes a reading tip to support your child's reading outside of the classroom.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Check out book lists by age group at readingrockets.org/books/summer.

Sign up for weekly text messages with reading tips, in English or Spanish, at startwithabook.org/sms.


eResources Supporting Early Literacy

The Early Literacy eResources available in the Michigan eLibrary support the *Essential Instructional Practices in Early Literacy* published by the Early Literacy Task Force, a subcommittee of the Michigan Association of Intermediate School Administrators General Education Leadership Network.

These eResources, available to all residents in the State of Michigan, extend the amount of reading material and opportunities for reading in the classroom, and at home. Additional eResource features aligned with these early literacy practices include:

- a read-aloud feature for books and encyclopedia content with text that is highlighted while it is being read; pronunciation tools for vocabulary words
- child-friendly explanations of words within texts and reinforcement of those words with tools such as videos and photos
- activities that build phonological awareness including listening to books and songs with rhyming, and sorting pictures, objects and words by sound.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age</th>
<th>eResource</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PreK – 2nd grade</td>
<td>Britannica Learning Zone</td>
<td>Play and read to learn letters, numbers, shapes and more.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PreK – 3rd grade</td>
<td>Early World Learning</td>
<td>Follow Trek and Taffy the cat around the world. Share their love of colors, numbers and other fun things. Read along stories and pictures help teach students basic concepts.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K – 5th grade</td>
<td>WORLD BOOK KIDS</td>
<td>Easy-to-read content for elementary school learners. Hundreds of activities science projects and experiments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3rd – 5th grade</td>
<td>BritannicaSchool Elementary</td>
<td>Homework help resources for grades 3-5. Find information on countries, animals, people, maps, photos and articles.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>K – 8th grade</td>
<td>EBSCO eBooks</td>
<td>Titles that support K-8 students across all subject areas. Full-text access of available from your computer or download titles to the most popular portable devices.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Visit MeL.org

Click on eResources to find these Early Literacy eResources and more!

Need MeL Support?

For questions, or to set up training, please contact:

Liz Breed
Michigan eLibrary Coordinator
Library of Michigan
Michigan Department of Education
517-335-1497
breedl@michigan.gov
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.
When do I need to talk to the school if I don’t agree with the decision to retain my child?

If you do not agree with the decision, you should request a meeting with your child’s school and file a **Good Cause Exemption within 30 days** of receiving a notice regarding potential retention. Your child’s school must make themselves available to discuss your child’s progress.

For more information on the Good Cause Exemption, please refer to: Facts for Families: What is a Good Cause Exemption in the Read by Grade Three Law?

When will I find out if my child is being retained after I ask for a Good Cause Exemption?

Your child’s school needs to have a decision on retaining your child **30 days before the first day of school**. This decision is made by the school principal and/or superintendent and is a final decision.

What support will my child get if they are retained in 3rd Grade?

The school will provide a reading program that is designed to improve your child’s specific reading concern. This program includes teaching strategies to help your child be a successful reader. Your child may also be assigned to a highly effective teacher of reading, a reading specialist, an evidence-based reading program, daily small group instruction, ongoing assessments, or specialized reading help.