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Being able to read well is necessary to your child's success in school and in life. The North Carolina Department of Education recognized a need for improving early literacy skills in North Carolina.

The Read to Achieve law takes effect this school year, 2013-2014.

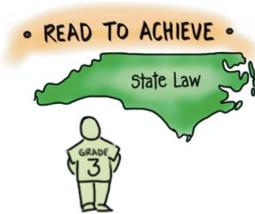
The law addresses early literacy in North Carolina schools and highlights reading achievement in third grade.

The expectation is that all third graders demonstrate reading proficiency before being promoted to fourth grade. Your child demonstrates reading proficiency by scoring a III or a IV on an End-of-Grade test, also known as the EOG.



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During your third grader's journey, there will be multiple opportunities to show reading proficiency. Along the way, teachers, parents and administrators will be asked to make thoughtful decision to ensure your child's success.



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Our ultimate goal is to provide excellent instruction that instills a love of reading. Through effective and personalized instruction, we hope you child will be a thoughtful and independent reader who shows proficiency on a test.



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Let's learn more about the possible paths to proficiency for your third grader.



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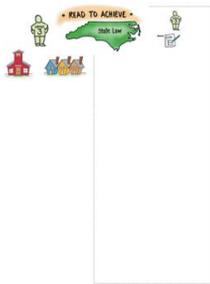


Your child's success requires a strong school-home connection. Thoughtful communication between you and your child's school will help ensure your son or daughter's success. Ongoing communication about the Read to Achieve law will help everyone understand the process and how decisions will affect your child.



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Each third grader in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools receives targeted and supportive instruction to meet the third grade expectations of the North Carolina Standard Course of Study, which includes the Common Core State Standards and the Essential Standards.



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At the end of third grade, your child will have the opportunity to show reading proficiency on the third grade EOG.



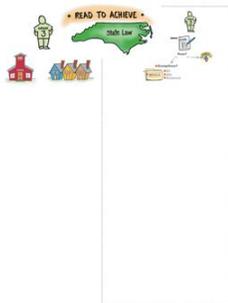
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If your third grader passes the reading EOG with a score of III or IV, he or she will be promoted to the fourth grade.



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Your third grade son or daughter may qualify for some exemptions from showing proficiency on the Reading EOG. The specific exemptions identified by the state of North Carolina will allow a child to be promoted to 4th grade without passing the Reading EOG.



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If your child has an Individualized Education Program, or IEP, and takes the NCEXTEND1 alternative assessment, he or she is exempt from showing proficiency on the Reading EOG.

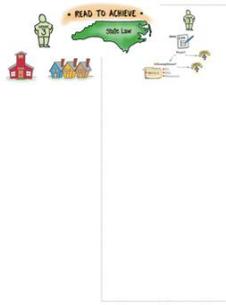
OR

If your child is an English Language Learner who has participated in English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction for less than two years by the end of their third-grade year, he or she is exempt from showing proficiency on the Reading EOG.

OR

If your child has been retained more than once before third grade, he or she is exempt from showing proficiency on the Reading EOG.

In Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, very few third graders overall qualify these exemptions. If you have any questions about these exemptions, please contact your child's school.



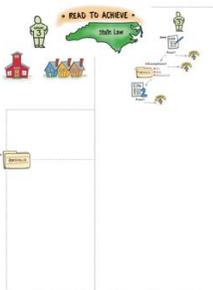
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If your child is exempt, he or she will be promoted to the fourth grade. If your child is not exempt, he or she may show reading proficiency by completing the third grade reading portfolio.



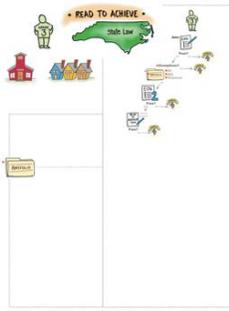
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The North Carolina Department of Education has developed a 3rd grade reading portfolio as a way to show reading proficiency in grade 3. Later in this presentation, we will share information about the third grade reading portfolio and how it can impact your child.



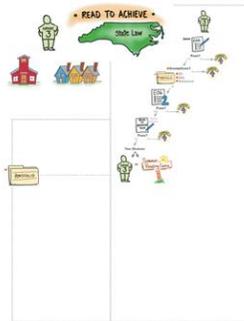
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If your child does not qualify for any of these exemptions and did not pass the first EOG, your son or daughter will have an opportunity to pass another Reading EOG test. If your child passes the second Reading EOG, he or she will be promoted to the 4th grade.



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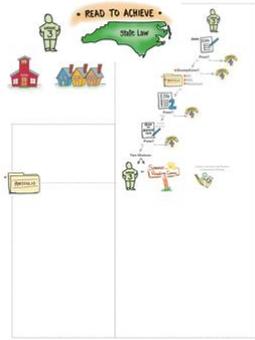
If your third grader does not pass the second Reading EOG, you may request a third test. This Read to Achieve test is another opportunity for your child to show reading proficiency. If your son or daughter passes the Read to Achieve test, he or she will be promoted to the 4th grade. All three tests described for the end of the year must occur during the last 10 days of school.



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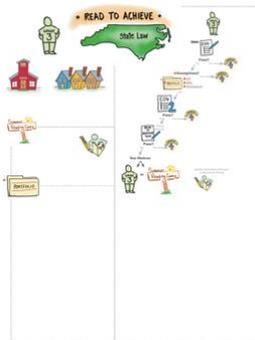
If you do not request for your child to take the Read to Achieve test, he or she has not passed the two previous Reading EOG tests, and is not exempt, you have two options for your child. Your son or daughter can repeat 3rd grade or attend CMS Summer Reading Camp.

If your child does take the Read to Achieve test but does not pass, you will have two options. He or she can repeat 3rd grade or attend CMS Summer Reading Camp.



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If your child attends CMS Summer Reading Camp, he or she will receive reading and writing instruction and opportunities to apply their learning.



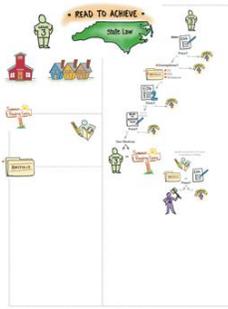
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More information about CMS Summer Reading Camp will be available later in the school year. A few extra details will be shared at the end of the presentation.



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During the CMS Summer Reading Camp, your child will have the opportunity to show proficiency by completing their reading portfolio or passing the Read to Achieve test. If your son or daughter shows proficiency by completing the portfolio or by passing the Read to Achieve test, he or she will be promoted to the 4th grade.



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If your child does not show proficiency by completing the portfolio or by passing the Read to Achieve test at the end of Summer Reading Camp, he or she will be placed in a 4th grade classroom and have a third grade retained label on his or her record. Your child will be taught 4th grade curriculum while receiving additional reading support. Reading support will be determined at each school to meet the individual needs of your son or daughter. You can expect regular communication from your child's teacher about your child's progress.



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In November, if your child has a third grade retained label, he or she will have the opportunity to take another Read to Achieve test in November of his or her 4th grade year.



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If your child passes the Read to Achieve test in November, the 3rd grade retained label will be removed from his or her record. If your son or daughter does not pass Read to Achieve test in November the 3rd label remains. Regardless of whether or not your child passes the November Read to Achieve test, he or she will remain in his or her 4th grade class and continue to work on 4th grade standards.



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Whether or not your child has a 3rd grade retained label, he or she will take the 4th grade Reading EOG in June of his or her 4th grade year. If your son or daughter passes the 4th grade EOG, he or she will be promoted to 5th grade.



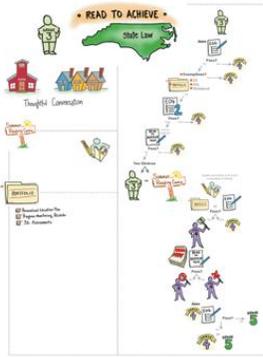
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If your child does not pass the 4th grade EOG, your child may be retained in 4th grade or promoted to 5th grade.



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Throughout this entire process, thoughtful conversations with your child's teacher will help ensure that your son or daughter has the best opportunities to show reading proficiency and success. It is important for you and your child's teacher to work together to make the best decisions for your child.



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The 3rd grade reading portfolio has several parts. It is another option for your child to show proficiency in reading. The reading portfolio may be started in January and be continued through CMS Summer Reading Camp if necessary.

The Portfolio consists of three basic components:

The first component is a student summary from mCLASS Reading 3D. Reading 3D is the test required by the state for all 3rd graders. Several reports from this state test must be included in the portfolio.

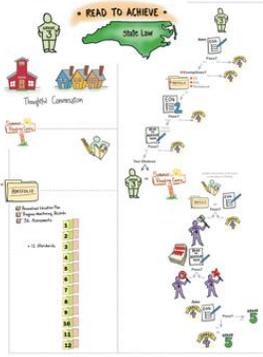
The second component is the copy of your child's Personal Education Plan, or PEP, if applicable. The PEP is evaluated and updated periodically throughout the year.

The third component is a series of tests, which include a short reading passage with five questions. These tests are provided by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction and are given by the classroom teacher. Your son or daughter must pass 36 tests total in order to complete the portfolio.



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The North Carolina Department of Public Instruction has selected 12 reading standards to demonstrate proficiency in reading.



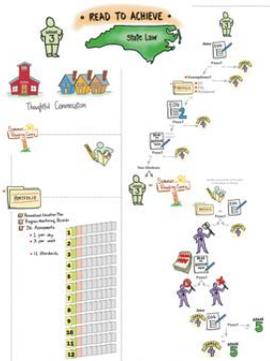
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In order to pass a portfolio test, your child must independently read a passage and answer correctly at least four out of five questions. For each of the 12 reading standards, your son or daughter must pass three tests. This means that your child will pass three tests for 12 standards totaling 36 passed tests.



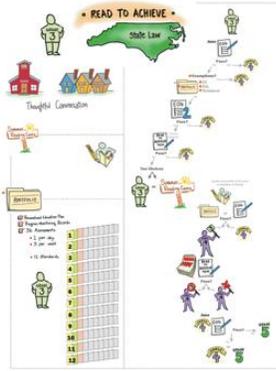
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The state is providing 10 tests for each of the 12 standards for a total of 120 tests. This provides your child with multiple opportunities to show proficiency on each standard. If your child fails 8 tests within one standard he or she will not be able to show proficiency on that particular standard. If your son or daughter does not show proficiency in any one standard the portfolio process cannot be completed.



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As you work with your child's teacher to make decisions about the portfolio process, please keep in mind what is best for your son or daughter.



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Your child may only take one test per day and a maximum of three tests per week. Schools may start giving the portfolio tests in January. From the start date of the portfolio to June when the EOG is given, there are 19 weeks to complete the portfolio process. If needed, your son or daughter will be able to continue towards portfolio completion during Summer Reading Camp.



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The CMS Summer Reading Camp will provide your child with six weeks of additional reading and writing instruction. The Summer Reading Camp is designed to boost your child's reading achievement and provides another opportunity for 4th grade promotion. It is important to communicate with your son or daughter's school to make the best decisions for your child. If you have questions, please contact your child's school.