



ALABAMA LITERACY ACT

Frequently Asked Questions for Kindergarten-3rd Grade Families

If your child is reading below grade level or is struggling with reading, his/her teacher will inform you of reading difficulties 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.

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.

Why focus on literacy?

By 3rd grade, students must have strong foundational reading skills in order to read and gain meaning from print. If they are unsuccessful, they will have difficulty reading grade level fiction and nonfiction materials independently. Students also need strong reading skills in order to learn other school subjects such as science, social studies, writing, and even math.

How will families be informed about their children's progress?

Each student in kindergarten through 3rd grade will have his/her reading skills 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 to the teacher to help tailor instruction to meet individual student needs. Families should receive these results in writing within a designated time frame.

How will schools help students who are retained in 3rd grade because the students do not meet the promotion requirements?

Beginning the 2023-2024 school year, students retained in 3rd grade will receive more intensive reading intervention services including:

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

What is the Alabama State Board of Education approved assessment required for promotion to the 4th grade?

The **Alabama Comprehensive Assessment Program (ACAP) Summative** is a standards-based criterion-referenced assessment designed to provide parents with information regarding students' progress toward mastery of the 2021 Alabama English Language Arts Course of Study standards.

The **ACAP Summative English Language Arts Assessment** consist of questions designed to best measure the Alabama Course of Study reading, writing, and language standards.

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 third grade, if unable to show proficiency by one of the other methods.

What are additional considerations for promotion from 3rd to 4th grade?

Good cause exemptions allow students who are reading below grade level to be promoted to the 4th grade but still receive interventions and other supports.

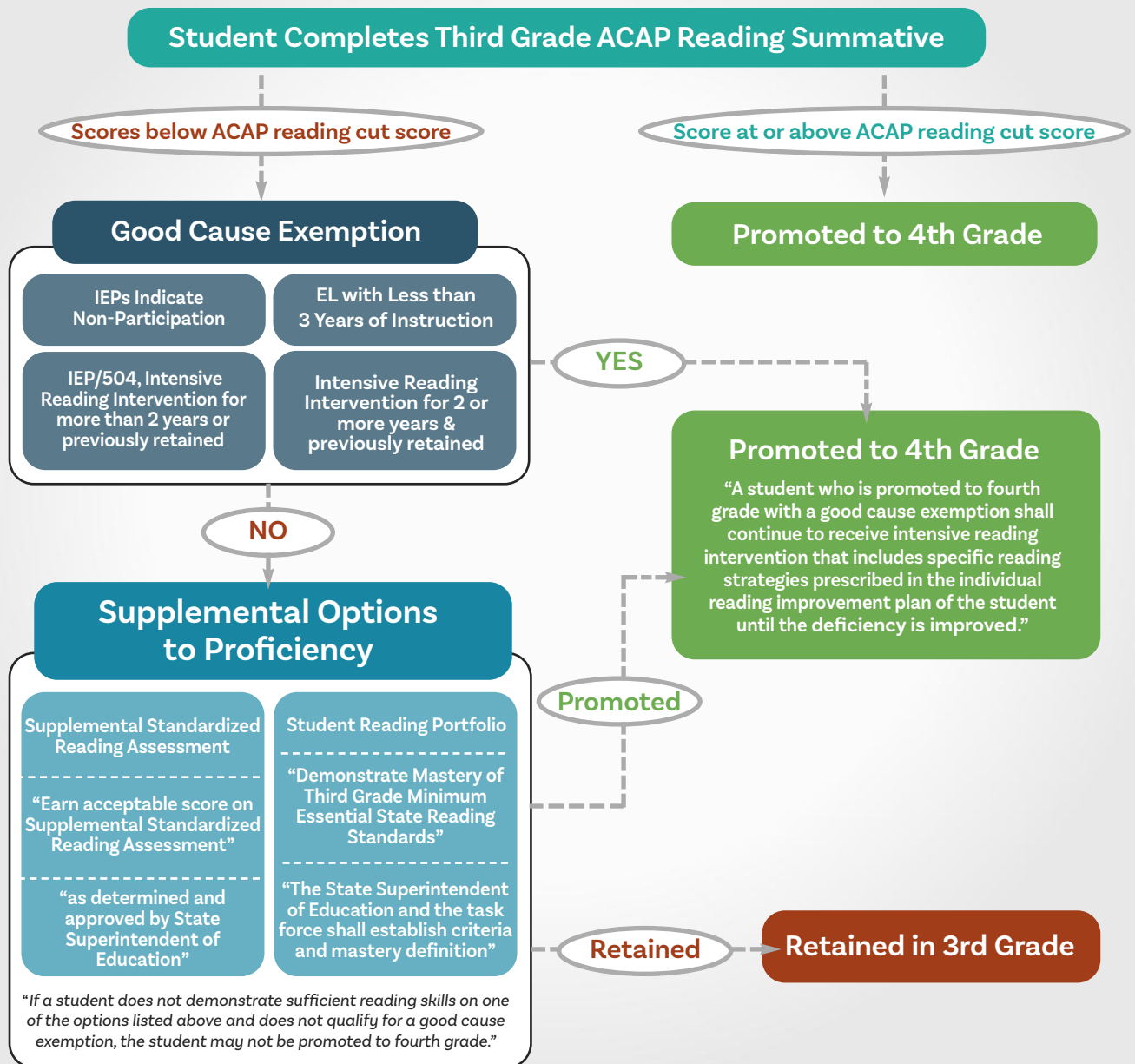
Third grade students who demonstrate an acceptable level of reading proficiency on an ALSDE-approved supplemental standardized assessment or reading portfolio may be promoted to 4th grade.

Good cause exemptions apply to:

- Students identifying as English language learners who have had less than three years of instruction in English as a second language.
- Students with disabilities who participate in the statewide English Language Arts reading assessment and who have an “Individual Education Plan” (IEP, aka Individualized Education Program) or a Section 504 plan that reflects that the student has received intensive reading intervention for more than two years and who still demonstrates a deficiency in reading or was previously retained in kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade.
- Students who have received intensive reading intervention for two or more years and who still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in kindergarten, first grade, or second grade for a total of two years. **No student shall be retained more than once in the third grade.**
- **No student shall be retained more than twice in kindergarten through third grade.**

ALSDE Literacy-Based Promotion Flow Chart

“Commencing with the 2023-2024 school year, third grade students shall demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion to fourth grade. Students shall be provided all of the following options to demonstrate sufficient reading skills for promotion to fourth grade.”



How can families and guardians help?

Families are the backbone of student learning. Families should talk regularly with teachers and ask questions about their children’s progress. For specific tips about how to help children at home, visit:

- <https://www.alabamaachieves.org/alabama-reading-initiative/>
- <https://alabamafamilycentral.org/programs>
- <https://parents.aplusala.org/supporting-learning-from-home/lessons-from-home>
- <https://alabamapartnershipforchildren.org/resources>

