

Third Grade
Promotion/Retention
Tennessee Pathways to
Promotion for
3rd Grade students



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Legislative Information Tennessee

- In 2021 during Special Session the legislature updated an existing law to require third graders test proficient in ELA TCAP before moving to fourth grade.
- Students who do not pass the third-grade section of the ELA TCAP (a student who receives an approaching or below score), will be provided support to ensure they are ready for grade level ELA lessons in fourth grade.
- If families elect not to participate in the supports provided, the law requires the student be retained in third grade to ensure that they receive an additional year of instruction.

Data

According to 2022-2023 data, 65% of Tennessee 3rd graders could be at risk of being retained.

Source: [3rd Grade Reading Level \(tn.gov\)](https://www.tn.gov/education/3rd-grade-reading-level)

December 2023 Communication



December 8, 2023

To the parent(s) of «firstname» «lastname»

RE: State Law Regarding Promotion from Third Grade

Dear Parent,

The Tennessee General Assembly passed legislation in 2021 that established new requirements in order for third graders to be promoted to fourth grade. As described in more detail below, additional steps are required for third grade students who are not proficient on the English/Language Arts (ELA) section of the 2024 TCAP State Achievement Test. This test measures mastery of rigorous state ELA academic standards, and the majority of Tennessee students do not reach proficiency. Proficiency is defined as a performance level score of *Met Expectations* or *Exceeded Expectations*. Scores of *Below Expectations* or *Approaching Expectations* are not considered proficient.

In order to assist parents in planning for the coming year, we have utilized your child's fall district benchmark assessment results to provide our best estimate, or projection, of «firstname»'s likely performance level on TCAP. This is only an estimate, of course, as much can change between now and next April when State tests are administered, and students can have good days or bad days taking tests. However, based upon the data currently available, our best TCAP projection for «firstname» is indicated by an "X" below:

	Projected 2023 TCAP ELA Performance
«1»	Not Proficient (Currently on track to score <i>Below Expectations</i> or <i>Approaching Expectations</i>)
«2»	Borderline Proficient (With continued progress, has a reasonable chance to reach proficiency)
«3»	Proficient (With continued progress, likely to reach proficiency)
«4»	Insufficient Data <u>at this time</u> (Currently lacking sufficient test data to predict TCAP performance)

Exemptions that are allowable no matter the TCAP score:

An English Learner who has had less than 2 years of ELA Instruction

A student who was previously retained in any grade K-3

A student who has a disability or suspected disability that impacts reading

Section 504 student with major life activity that impacts reading

Source: TDOE FAQ on the Promotion and Retention of 3rd Grade Students 2023

How can MNPS students at risk of retention be promoted?

Retake the test and score proficient or above:

- TCAP Testing Window April 15, 2024 - April 26, 2024
- AIMSweb Window April 10, 2024 - May 14, 2024
- Testing Make-Up Window May 22, 2024 – May 31, 2024
- MNPS will offer this option in multiple locations in every quadrant, most likely in Promising Scholars sites.
- Students attending Promising Scholars will be afforded this opportunity. Student will need to make adequate growth on the 4th grade TCAP.

MNPS Programs

MNPS has a history of rich offerings that support students. These offerings meet the requirements of the law so that students may be promoted:

- Accelerating Scholars offers high-impact tutoring for students who have the greatest need of accelerating outcomes.
- Promising Scholars is a summer program running May 30, 2024 – June 28, 2024 that can ensure that your student is successfully promoted.

How can 3rd grade MNPS students at risk of retention be promoted?

If scoring **approaching**:

- attend Promising Scholars held May 30, 2024 – June 28, 2024 with 90% attendance and demonstrate adequate growth at the end of the program. This option is the most secure way to ensure promotion to 4th grade.

or

- participate in Accelerating Scholars tutoring for the entirety of the fourth-grade year. MNPS does NOT recommend relying on this approach unless a provision above is not met.
 - If relying on Accelerating Scholars in 4th grade, the student must make adequate growth on the 4th grade TCAP or reach proficiency in 4th grade ELA. Or

or

- You may appeal if you score at or above 40th percentile on the MNPS FastBridge screener

or

- You may appeal if you score at or above the 50th percentile on the state screener: AIMSweb

How can MNPS students at risk of retention be promoted?

- Parent(s) can appeal directly to the State Board in case there is/was a catastrophic event (approaching scores only)
- Authorized school personnel (principal, guidance counselor, teacher, or other administrator) may also file an appeal on behalf of a parent if written consent is received. (approaching scores only)

*The criteria for an appeal, the appeal timeline, and the written consent form will be shared by the TDOE in Spring 2024.

How can MNPS students at risk of retention be promoted?

If scoring **below**:

- attend Promising Scholars held May 30, 2024 – June 28, 2024 with 90% attendance
and
- complete Accelerating Scholars for the entirety of the fourth-grade year
and
- make adequate growth on the 4th grade TCAP.

What can I expect from my school?

- Teaching of a guaranteed and viable curriculum
- All students have access to 45 minutes of personalized learning time daily
- All students have access to tutoring and other district provided opportunities in your school
- Universal screeners are administered in August, January and May
- MNPS will continue to use universal reading screening data to drive instruction
- Parent conferences and home resources are offered to families November and February
- Additional school-based supports are provided for those students who are at-risk of retention
- Communication (December and February/March) with options provided to parents of students who receive at-risk for retention notifications and/or who are not proficient in 3rd grade ELA TCAP

What can I do as parent to support my student?

- Schedule a parent-teacher conference to review your child's progress if needed
- Sign your child up for Promising Scholars:
<https://promisingscholars.mnps.org>
- Ask if Accelerating Scholars might be appropriate for your student
- Access TCAP Resources to review with your child:
<https://www.livebinders.com/b/2426642#anchor>
- Contact your legislator:
<https://capitol.tn.gov/help/contacting.html>

Timeline (after Benchmark Assessments)

February 28, 2024 – March 7, 2024

District Benchmarks – Quarter 3

April 15, 2024 – April 26, 2024

3rd Grade ELA TCAP Testing Window

April 29, 2024 – May 3, 2024

3rd Grade Spring AIMSweb Universal Reading Screener Assessment

April 19, 2024

Last day of Accelerating Scholars Spring

May 6, 2024 – May 14, 2024

MTSS Academic/Dyslexia Screening Process 3rd Grade

May 17, 2024

Parent notification deadline for students at-risk of retention (based on end of year screener)

May 20, 2024

District expects to receive raw scores

May 22, 2024 – May 31, 2024

3rd Grade ELA TCAP Retake Option

May 28, 2024 – June 28, 2024

3rd Grade Appeals Window

Timeline

June 3, 2024

Reporting of all 3rd Grade ELA TCAP Retake Scores Complete

June 24- June 26, 2024

Promising Scholars Post-test

June 28, 2024

Last day of Promising Scholars

July 1, 2024

3rd Grade ELA TCAP Retake Option

July 3, 2024

Final 3rd Grade Retention Notification (not participating in Promotion Pathways)

July 26, 2024

Final retention notification to families

July 26, 2024

Post-test for summer programming closes



PROMISING SCHOLARS

MAY 30 - JUNE 28

Promising Scholars will be held from May 30 to June 28

Tier	Hours	Reminders
Elementary School (includes rising K)	8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.	Note: We will be closed Wednesday, June 19, in observance of Juneteenth.
Middle School	9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.	
High School	7:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. for students needing MNPS transportation, but flexible options may be offered	
Before/After care	Will be offered at several sites	

Registration is Open

- Registration Site: promisingscholars.mnps.org
- Rising K-12th grade students
 - Students with an active 2024-2025 enrollment can register, including current Pre-K students.
- 3rd Grade Remediation & Promising Scholars
 - Students who score below are required to attend a summer learning program. Students who score approaching can attend Promising Scholars and/or participate in tutoring during their 4th grade year if they are to advance to fourth grade.
 - If your child is not on track to test proficient, you should plan on them attending Promising Scholars. Please talk with your child's teacher if you have questions or concerns about your child's progress.

Questions

If there are questions, please email and include your name and telephone number:

retentionquestions@mnps.org

Additional information may also be found at:

www.tn.gov/education/learning-acceleration

Contact your legislator:

<https://capitol.tn.gov/help/contacting.html>