

# Third Grade Reading Law



## What Families Need to Know

### What is it?

Also known as Public Act 306 of 2016, the Third Grade Reading Law was passed by the Michigan legislature in an effort to increase student achievement in the area of literacy. Its intent is to ensure all children are proficient on state reading assessments by the end of third grade.

### Who is impacted by this law?

A portion of the law went into effect in the 2017-2018 school year that requires students in grades K-3 who are below grade level in reading to receive an individualized Reading Growth (improvement) Plan. In addition, districts are required to regularly communicate with families regarding their child's progress and provide tools to support reading at home. Beginning in the 2019-2020 school year, third grade students will take a standardized state assessment to determine promotion to fourth grade.

### What are Good Cause Exemptions?

The law offers several Good Cause Exemptions as alternatives to retention providing one of the following can be demonstrated:

- Proficiency on an alternative standardized reading assessment approved by the Superintendent
- Competency in all third grade standards via a student portfolio with multiple work samples
- The student has an IEP or Section 504 Plan and the team determines the child should be exempt from the requirements
- The student is an English Language Learner with less than three years of instruction in an ELL program
- The student has received reading intervention for two or more years and was previously retained
- The student has been enrolled in the current district for less than two years and was not previously provided an appropriate reading improvement plan
- The parent/guardian requests an exemption within the 30 day time period and the Superintendent or designee determines the exemption is in the best interests of the student

### What is EGRPS doing as a result of this new law?

Many requirements of the law were occurring in East Grand Rapids Public Schools prior to its passing. Strong literacy instruction and interventions continue to be in place along with a more formalized process for receiving support. In addition to this, a Literacy Coach will provide ongoing support and professional development to K-3 teachers.

### How is EGRPS supporting students as readers?

The district believes in a balanced literacy approach with high quality instruction delivered by trained educators committed to the success of each child. To foster growth in all readers, we will:

- Continue to utilize and provide professional learning on evidence-based best practices in literacy instruction
- Provide Leveled Literacy Intervention services delivered by a K-3 classroom or reading teacher in addition to regular literacy instruction for students reading below grade level
- Implement individualized Reading Growth Plans for those students reading below grade level
- Share Read-At-Home Plans, tips, and tools for supporting your child's growth as a reader

### What can I do to support my child?

- Read out loud to your child
- Listen to your child read
- As you read:
  - Ask you child to share what they remember
  - Talk about your favorite parts, what you've learned, or who is in the book and what they do
  - Talk about the pictures in the book and how they connect to the words on the page
  - Help connect the stories to your child's life or other books you've read, even on trips to the store

### How do I learn more?

The Michigan Department of Education provides more information on the "3rd Grade Reading Law" webpage found [here](#). If you would like further information about our district practices and procedures, please contact your child's building administrator.