

## What is Read to Achieve?

Read to Achieve is a program created in legislation approved by the North Carolina General Assembly in July 2012. The program has components for improving reading proficiency for students in kindergarten through third grade. The law offers multiple supports for children as they build reading ability.

## What should reading instruction look like for students in grades K-3?

Reading is the core of all instruction. All subjects, including math, science, and social studies, require literacy skills.

In the early grades, students build foundational skills to help them learn to read. Teachers use a variety of methods and strategies to teach children these basic skills, including hearing letter sounds, connecting sounds with letters and words, putting sounds together to make words, reading smoothly and fluently, building vocabulary, and deepening comprehension. Students practice reading and are read to daily.

*North Carolina's goal is to ensure that every student read at or above grade level by the end of third grade and continue to progress in reading proficiency so that he or she can read, comprehend, integrate, and apply complex texts needed for secondary education and career success.*



# North Carolina Read to Achieve

What Every Parent of a  
Third Grader Needs to Know

### FOR MORE READ TO ACHIEVE INFORMATION:

- **NC Read to Achieve LiveBinder for Parents**  
<http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=1326906>
- **K-3 Literacy**  
<http://www.ncpublicschools.org/k-3literacy/>



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# Reading in Third Grade

## What is the EOG?

Beginning in third grade, students are given an End-of-Grade (EOG) test that measures achievement in reading comprehension. Your child is assessed on standards taught during the third-grade year.

## What happens if my child does not pass the reading EOG?

If your child did not pass the EOG, you will be notified in writing about other opportunities for your child to show proficiency.

## What happens if my child is not reading well?

Your child's teacher will request a conference and share with you the strategies used to help your child in reading. The teacher may also begin a personalized education plan (PEP) for your child, with the intention of expanding reading skills.

## What is the third-grade portfolio?

A portfolio is a collection of student work that is developed over time. The Read to Achieve portfolio is not a standardized test and is intended to provide students another option to demonstrate proficiency in third-grade reading. Your child's school will decide which children need to complete this option. The third-grade portfolio consists of reading passages with comprehension questions. The portfolio passages are completed during the instructional school day as part of independent work.



## What are reading camps?

Reading camps are offered by your child's school district for students who are not proficient on the third-grade EOG. Camps are designed to provide additional instruction in third-grade reading for your child. There is no cost to parents. Attendance in reading camps is not mandatory, but parents are strongly encouraged to enroll a child in reading camp for continued support. Children attending camp will receive motivational instruction in a small group setting, allowing the teacher to meet the reading needs of each student.

## What are Good Cause Exemptions?

There are five Good Cause Exemptions outlined in the Read to Achieve legislation. These exemptions are intended for children who meet certain criteria. For more information on these Good Cause Exemptions, go to the Read to Achieve LiveBinder for Parents at <http://www.livebinders.com/play/play?id=1326906>.

## What is an alternative assessment?

An alternative assessment is an additional way to measure a child's third-grade reading when a child is not successful on the reading EOG. Two alternative assessments are provided by the State: the Read to Achieve Alternative Assessment and Reading 3D™ Text Reading and Comprehension at Level P. For other alternative assessments that your school may use, please talk with your child's principal.



## What happens if my child does not show proficiency in third-grade reading?

Your child will be placed in one of three classes based on his or her needs and the capacity of the school.

### 1. 3rd Grade Accelerated Class

This class is designed to provide remediation in foundational reading skills. The intention of the class is to increase your child's reading level by at least two grade levels while also working on third-grade performance standards.

### 2. 4th Grade Accelerated Class

This class is designed to provide remediation for third-grade standards outside of the classroom and increase students' reading levels by at least two grade levels in one year. Students in this class work toward fourth-grade performance standards.

### 3. 3/4 Transition Class

This class is designed to help your child meet fourth-grade performance standards while also providing remediation in third-grade reading in the regular classroom setting.

Your child will receive instructional support and services (including 90 minutes of uninterrupted reading instruction) from a highly qualified teacher for the entire school year.