

## What is the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) doing to help?



The OSDE is also assisting school districts as they work to ensure that all students are able to meet third grade reading requirements. These efforts include:

### Classroom Support

Literacy workshops are hosted for teachers and administrators throughout Oklahoma school regions to assist with reading instructional strategies.

### Engaging School Sites Across the State

School Support Teams, who offer data analysis and individualized problem-solving, are visiting a variety of school sites in the state to provide services and supports for effective reading instruction and strategies in Pre-K through third grade. You can contact the RSA Coordinator (Dionne Jordan-Mock 405.521.4096) for more information if you think your school could benefit from these services.

### The Lexile® Framework for Reading

<http://sde.ok.gov/sde/lexiles>

## What parents need to know about third-grade reading retention

This brochure is designed to help parents find valuable information about the Reading Sufficiency Act law, so they can be an informed partner with their local schools as we all work together to help children succeed. The Reading Sufficiency Act (RSA) states that **a third-grade student cannot be automatically promoted to the fourth grade if he or she does not meet RSA criteria on the reading portion of the Oklahoma School Testing Program (OSTP).**

### Why was the law created

Studies consistently show that children who cannot read eventually struggle in all other subjects. One such study found that students with reading difficulties by the end of third grade are **four times more likely** to drop out of high school.

For more information, visit  
[sde.ok.gov/sde/parents-reading-sufficiency](http://sde.ok.gov/sde/parents-reading-sufficiency) or  
email [rsa@sde.ok.gov](mailto:rsa@sde.ok.gov)

Joy Hofmeister  
State Superintendent of Public Instruction



Office of Academic Affairs  
Curriculum and Instruction

## Reading Sufficiency Act

2016-2017

What Parents Need  
To Know About  
Third Grade Reading



## How do I know if my child is a successful reader?

RSA requires that schools give benchmark assessments in kindergarten through third grade to identify students who need intensive intervention in reading, and that schools notify parents in writing about their student's skill level. Many Oklahoma schools assess pre-kindergarten students in literacy as well to provide early intervention.

## What is an Academic Progress Plan?

To help guide a student's individual instruction in reading, your school will partner with you to develop an *Academic Progress Plan (APP)*. This APP will include:

- Your child's specific reading deficiency including a Lexile score and grade level performance score.
- The intensive instructional services and supports provided for your student.
- Strategies for parents to use in helping their child succeed in reading .
- Explanation that while the Oklahoma School Testing Program (OSTP) serves as an initial determinant, portfolio reviews and assessments are also available.
- The school district's specific criteria and policies for mid-year promotion. (70 O.S. § 1210.508C(1)(1-8))

## What is a "passing" grade for the Oklahoma School Testing Program?

For this school year, 2016-2017, students are not eligible for automatic promotion to fourth grade if they score "Unsatisfactory" or "Limited Knowledge" on the reading comprehension and vocabulary portions of the OSTP reading test. Only children that do not meet RSA criteria on these two portions of the third grade OSTP reading test are at risk of being retained. Children who score Proficient or Advanced on these two areas may be promoted.

## LOCAL SCHOOL + PARENT = SUCCESS

Your school will keep you updated with information about how often your child's progress will be monitored. Please contact your child's teacher for any specific questions about your child's reading skills.

## Is my child's reading ability to be assessed by a single test on a single day?

No. Other options exist. A portfolio of a student's work demonstrating grade-level reading proficiency can be submitted by a teacher, ensuring that the retention decision does not come down to a single day of testing. The student also will have the opportunity to demonstrate proficiency on one of the 13 Oklahoma State Board of Education approved screening tools and/or to take an alternative standardized assessment test at a later date, as long as he or she first takes the OSTP. Children also may have the option to complete a summer reading academy prior to utilizing the portfolio or alternative test exemptions.

## What should I do if I believe my child is eligible for an exemption from the RSA Law requirements?

Talk to your child's teacher if you believe he or she may be eligible for a good-cause exemption. For an exemption to be approved:

- The student's teacher must submit documentation to the school principal.
- The principal must review the documentation and decide whether the student should be promoted to the next grade level. If the principal determines the student should be promoted, he or she must make that recommendation to the school district superintendent.
- The district superintendent must accept or reject that principal's recommendation.



## What are the exemptions to the law?

RSA provides 7 "good cause" exemptions for students who score "Unsatisfactory" or "Limited Knowledge" on the reading comprehension and vocabulary portions of the OSTP reading test:

1. English Learners who have had less than two years of instruction in English and are identified as Limited-English Proficient (LEP) or English Learner (EL) on a screening tool approved by the Oklahoma State Department of Education Office of Federal Programs-Title III, Part A and have a Language Instruction Educational Plan (LIEP) in place prior to the administration of the third grade criterion referenced test; **and** the student must have had less than two years of instruction in an EL program.
2. Students with disabilities whose Individualized Education Program (IEP) indicates they are to be assessed with the Oklahoma Alternate Assessment Program (OAAP).
3. Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of performance (minimum of 45th percentile) on an alternative standardized reading test approved by the State Board of Education (SAT 10, Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS)-Complete Battery Form A, C or E, Level 9, ITBS- Core Battery Form A, C or E, Level 9 and Terranova).
4. Students who demonstrate through a teacher-developed portfolio that they can read on grade level. The student portfolio shall include evidence demonstrating the student's mastery of the Oklahoma state standards in reading equal to grade-level performance on the reading portion of the OSTP.
5. Students with disabilities who participate in the statewide criterion-referenced tests and who have an individualized education program that reflects that the student has received intensive remediation in reading for more than (2) years but still demonstrates a deficiency in reading and was previously retained for academic reasons in Pre-K, Kindergarten, First, Second, or Third grade.
6. Students who have received intensive remediation in reading for two or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who were previously retained for academic reasons in Pre-K, Kindergarten, First, Second or Third grade for a total of two years. Transitional grades count.
7. Students facing exceptional emergency circumstances which prevent the student from being assessed during the testing window. These requests for exemptions must be approved by the Office of Accountability and Assessment.