



## **RSA Guidance: Making Third Grade Promotion Decisions in the Absence of OSTP Scores**

The purpose of this document is to provide guidance to districts as they make promotion and retention decisions for third graders under the Reading Sufficiency Act (RSA) for the 2019-2020 school year. With the waiver for state testing due to COVID-19, districts will need to make these decisions without the Oklahoma State Testing Program (OSTP) scores. This document will outline the steps districts should take for their third grade students, as well as addressed common questions that may arise.

The purpose of the RSA is to ensure that third grade students have sufficient reading ability to be successful in later grades. Under the RSA, third grade students have four pathways to promotion. See the decision tree below to determine which pathway is appropriate for each student.

### **Pathway 1 - Meet RSA criteria on the Oklahoma State Testing Program (OSTP)**

Without OSTP scores, this pathway will not be an option for this year. As a result, schools will need to consider how each third grade student might meet one of the other pathways.

### **Pathway 2 - Meet the end-of-year grade level target for third grade on one of the screening assessments approved by the State Board of Education**

Examine the screening assessment scores of all third grade students. If a student meets the grade-level target for **any** of the screening assessments listed below **at any time** during **1st, 2nd, or 3rd grade**, including benchmark windows or progress monitoring, then the student may be promoted through this pathway. **Document** the date the target score was met and the screener used in the student's permanent record. There are no other requirements for students who meet this pathway.

<b>Screening Assessment</b>	<b>Grade-level Target Score</b>
<a href="#"><u>Acadience</u></a>	330
<a href="#"><u>aimsweb Plus</u></a>	410
<a href="#"><u>DIBELS 8</u></a>	442
<a href="#"><u>FAST</u></a>	503
<a href="#"><u>Istation</u></a>	243
<a href="#"><u>MAP Growth</u></a>	195
<a href="#"><u>Star Reading</u></a>	392

### Pathway 3 - Meet the requirements of one of the seven good-cause exemptions

Determine if any of the remaining third grade students meet the criteria for one of the seven good-cause exemptions listed below. Ensure the required documentation is included in the student's permanent record. Students who are promoted through this pathway must continue to receive intervention through an IEP, English Language Academic Plan (ELAP), or an Academic Progress Plan (APP) until the student demonstrates grade level proficiency in reading as measured by an approved screening assessment.

Good-Cause Exemption	Documentation
1 Students who are English learners who have had less than two years of instruction in English and are identified as Limited English Proficient/ English learner on an approved screening tool.	Proof of ELAP in place
2 Students with disabilities whose Individualized Education Plan (IEP) indicates they are to be assessed with the Oklahoma Alternate Assessment Program (OAAP)	Proof of IEP that requires assessment with OAAP
3 Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on an <a href="#">alternative standardized reading test</a> approved by the Oklahoma State Board of Education.	Name of assessment, date taken and score
4 Students who demonstrate through a <a href="#">teacher-developed portfolio</a> that they can read on grade level. Work included in the portfolio must be completed independently by the student.	Completed <a href="#">portfolio checklist</a>
5 Students with disabilities who participate in the Oklahoma School Testing Program (OSTP) and who have an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that reflects that the student has received intensive remediation in reading and has made adequate progress toward IEP goals.	Proof of IEP and agreement of IEP team of adequate progress being made
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.	Grade of previous retention
7 Students facing exceptional emergency circumstances that prevent them from being assessed during the testing window. <b>If schools do not administer the OSTP, this exemption will not be an option.</b>	Copy of approval from assessment office

#### **Pathway 4 - Unanimous decision by the Student Reading Proficiency Team to promote with probation**

Students who do not meet any of the criteria above should be considered by a Student Reading Proficiency Team (SRPT). The SRPT includes the parent or guardian, the child's current reading teacher, future reading teacher and a certified reading specialist (if one is available). These meetings should take place virtually.

If the team makes a **unanimous** decision to **promote to fourth grade with probation**, the principal and superintendent must approve the promotion. Any student promoted on a probationary basis will receive intensive reading instruction in fourth grade as outlined through an Academic Progress Plan (APP) until the student demonstrates grade-level proficiency through one of the approved screening assessments.

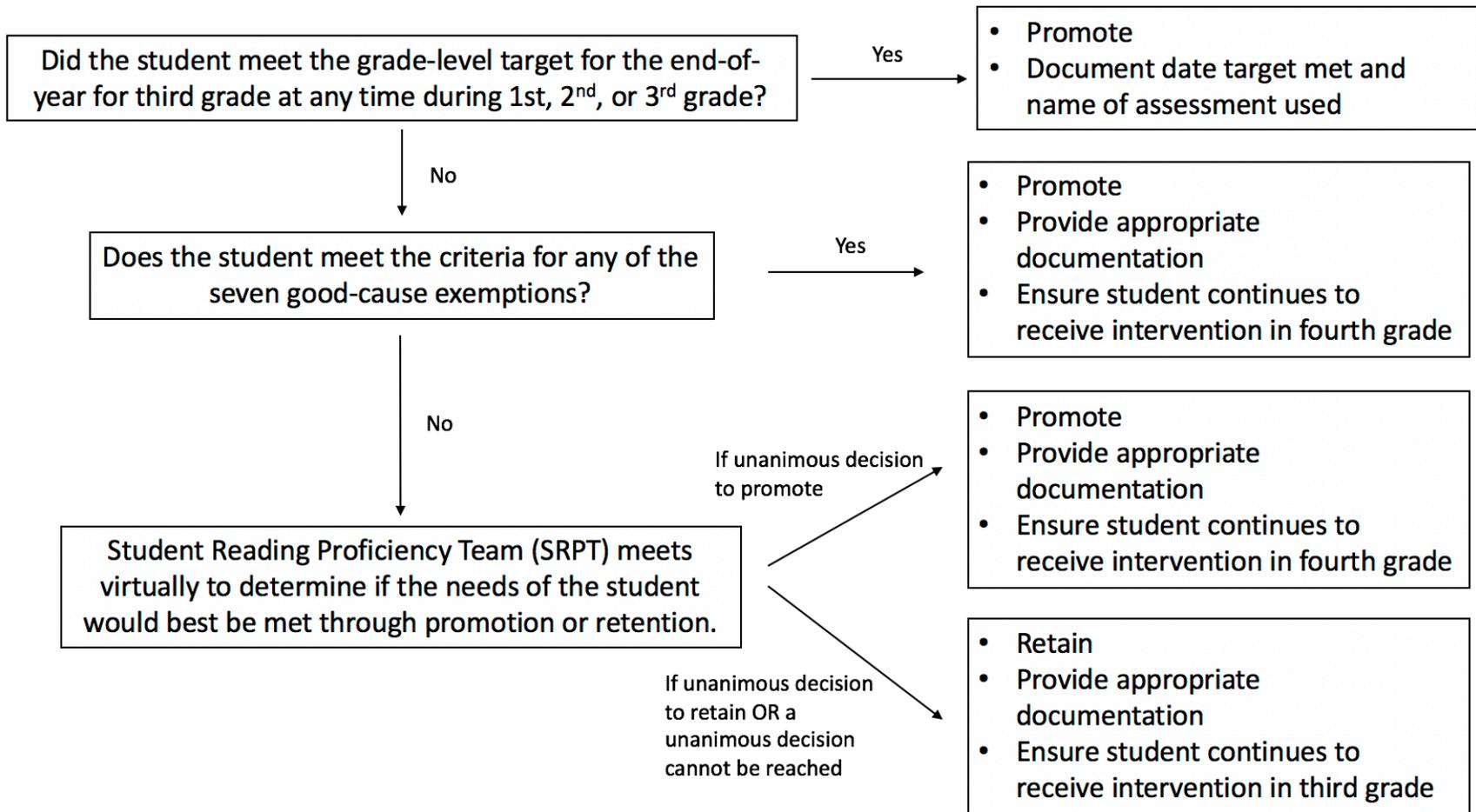
If **any member** of the SRPT disagrees with a promotion decision, or the principal or superintendent do not approve the promotion, then the student is to be **retained** for third grade. Any student who is retained must receive intensive reading instruction as outlined through an Academic Progress Plan (APP) for the entire year. The parent or guardian must be notified **in writing** that the student will be retained.

As the SRPT is making a decision, it is important to keep in mind the progress of the student prior to the release of school in March. Examining progress monitoring data that has been gathered while the student was on an Academic Progress Plan (APP) can help the SRPT determine if the student is able to continue making needed progress if intervention continues, regardless of grade placement.



## Decision Tree for Promotion Under the RSA (specific to SY2020)

In the absence of OSTP scores, consider all third grade students.





## **Frequently Asked Questions for RSA Promotion Decisions for SY2020**

### **Will Oklahoma schools be required to give end-of-year screening assessments?**

Schools will not be expected to administer end-of-year screening assessments for the Spring of 2020.

### **Some schools use a screening assessment that is online. Can the student take the assessment at home and use those scores to determine retention or promotion?**

Students are not required and should not take the end-of-year assessments this year. Schools should use data gathered prior to March 13, 2020 for promotion and retention decisions.

### **The student met the end-of-year grade-level target for third grade at the beginning of the third grade year. However, at the mid-year assessment the student was below the target. Does the student still meet Pathway 2?**

Yes. If the student meets the end-of-year grade-level target for third grade at any time during 1st, 2nd, or 3rd grade on any of the screening assessments approved by the Oklahoma State Board of Education, the student is eligible for automatic promotion to fourth grade.

### **A school identified one screener on the District Reading Plan and uses that for benchmark testing. However, the reading interventionist uses a different screener to monitor progress. The student met the grade-level target on the screener used by the interventionist, but not on the one for benchmark. Does that count for Pathway 2?**

Yes. If the student met the end-of-year grade-level target for third grade at any time during 1st, 2nd, or 3rd grade on any of the screening assessments approved by the Oklahoma State Board of Education, the student is eligible for automatic promotion to fourth grade.

### **How will schools complete the End of Year RSA Survey on Single Sign On?**

Since schools will not be able to complete end-of-year assessments, schools will not be asked to complete this report.

### **The student has an IEP that states they should take the OAAP rather than the OSTP. However, the OAAP was not administered because of the school closure. Does the student still meet the criteria for good-cause exemption 2?**

Yes. If the student has an IEP that specifies that the student should participate in the OAAP, then the student qualifies for this exemption, even if the school was unable to administer the assessment.

**What are the alternative assessments used for Good Cause Exemption 3? Is this the same thing as the screening assessment?**

[Alternative assessments](#) are different assessments than the screening assessments used for Pathway 2. Alternative assessments that are approved for use are the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS), Stanford Achievement Test (SAT-10), and Terra Nova. The minimum score required to meet this exemption is the 45th percentile.

**How will the school administer alternative assessments for good-cause exemption 3?**

Schools will not be able to administer alternative assessments during the 2019-2020 school year.

**The student has not completed all requirements for the teacher-created portfolio to meet good-cause exemption 4. How will the portfolio be completed?**

Schools should use the data collected prior to March 13, 2020. Incomplete portfolios cannot be used to meet good-cause exemption 4. However, the data that has been collected should be considered by the Student Reading Proficiency Team (SRPT) for Pathway 4. Once school re-convenes, the portfolio may be completed at school to meet the requirements for mid-year promotion.

**The student just started an IEP before spring break. How will adequate progress be determined for good-cause exemption 5?**

The IEP team should look at progress the student has made with interventions provided during the evaluation process. Using that information, the IEP team should make the decision they feel best fits the needs of the student.

**How can SRPT meetings be held with parents? Do they need to be physically present to sign documents?**

During this time, the health of our staff and families is of the utmost importance. SRPT meetings must be held virtually, either through a teleconference platform or a conference call. In lieu of physical signatures, either use digital signature options or document the decision of each participant and note the decision is being given verbally during the meeting.

**The teachers on the SRPT recommend retention. However, the parent does not agree. Does the parent override the teachers on the team?**

No. Just as in past years, for the student to be promoted with the SRPT there must be a unanimous decision to promote. If the team does not agree, the student must be retained. The same is true if the teachers recommend promotion but the parent wants the student to be retained. Retention does not require a unanimous decision.