

1. Where can we find the PowerPoint from the March 3 webinar, “Being Prepared for RSA in the Absence of OSTP Results”?

Please follow the following link: <http://sde.ok.gov/sde/rsa-professional-development>

2. Can you clarify when we can expect the 3rd grade ELA results back?

Preliminary results are expected by late July or early August.

3. Is it possible to make a decision about promotion if we do not have a reading specialist on staff?

No. The law (70 2011 §1210.508C.H.1) states, that the 3rd-grade Student Reading Proficiency Team (SRPT) must include a **certified** reading specialist. For the 2016-2017 school year, the SRPT must consist of:

- i. the parent(s) and/or guardian(s) of the student
- ii. the teacher assigned to the student who had responsibility for reading instruction in that academic year
- iii. a teacher in reading who teaches in the subsequent grade level
- iv. a certified reading specialist

For guidance on how to become a certified reading specialist, please contact the Oklahoma State Department of Education Office of Teacher Certification at (405) 521-3337.

4. The RSA web page says the SRPT should include a reading specialist, “if available.” Is that no longer accurate?

A reading specialist is suggested but not mandatory for the first- and second-grade SRPT, which deals with remediation. The third-grade SRPT, which deals with promotion, **must** include a certified reading specialist. These are two completely different teams with distinct duties and requirements. See question #2 for more information about the third-grade team.

5. If the principal is a certified reading specialist, is he/she eligible to serve in that capacity on the SRPT?

Yes.

6. Is it possible to emergency-certify a reading specialist?

Contact the [Office of Teacher Certification](#) for guidance on becoming an emergency certified reading specialist.

7. I am an active Certified Reading Specialist with extensive SRPT experience and am available to serve on committees this spring/summer. Does the OSDE have a registry or way of putting districts in touch with me?

Not at this time.

8. We have been told RSA results will not be available until July at the earliest. How can we convene a meeting of the SRPT when teachers are off contract?

The Reading Sufficiency Act (RSA) Team at the Oklahoma State Department of Education (OSDE) recommends that the meeting be held before the end of the spring semester to discuss all options, pathways, and good-cause exemptions. It is important to collect work samples from students that could be used in a portfolio if students do not meet RSA criteria. Furthermore, it may be necessary for the SRPT to meet during the summer and fill out probationary promotion paperwork prior to the beginning of school if doing so is in the best interest of the student.

Regarding SRPT interventions between the time of testing and when test results are available, the RSA Team recommends the following actions:

- If the SRPT promotes a student on a probationary basis and the student is later determined to have met RSA criteria, the team should rescind the paperwork.
- If the SRPT retains a student and the student is later determined to have met RSA criteria, the team should rescind the paperwork.
- If the SRPT retains the student and the student is later determined not to have met RSA criteria, the retention should proceed as planned.

9. *Is it too late to start a portfolio?*

Probably. The OSDE RSA team recommends keeping sample documents on all students throughout the school year in the event that a portfolio is needed.

10. *Does having an SRPT meeting prior to learning RSA test scores suggest, even unintentionally, that we assume students will fail?*

No. Holding a meeting prior to the end of the school year is an opportunity for proactive parent communication, a time to openly discuss the concerns, strengths, and options for the child. Any action the SRPT team takes prior to receiving the Oklahoma School Testing Program (OSTP) scores can later be rescinded if students meet good-cause exemptions.

11. *Has legislation been put forward this session to extend the SRPT probationary promotion?*

Yes.

12. *If the SRPT believes certain students will pass RSA, do not meet prior to the end of the spring semester, and do not require attendance at the summer reading academy, what happens if those students score Unsatisfactory or Limited Knowledge?*

Again, this is why it is important to collect work samples from students that could be used in a portfolio if they do not meet RSA criteria. In this scenario, it may be necessary for the SRPT to meet during the summer and fill out probationary promotion paperwork prior to the beginning of school, if it is in the best interest of the student.

13. *Is it true that the Summer Academy Reading Program (SARP) was not funded this year?*

That is correct. The RSA allocation is only made once a year (usually in January), and SARP is no longer required. Districts interested in hosting a SARP must fund it from the original allocation or by another means.

14. *If we do not know which students scored Unsatisfactory or Limited Knowledge before the end of the spring semester, how will we know if they need to attend the third-grade reading academy?*

The site's SRPT should make decisions based on data collected throughout the year (from the screening assessment, progress monitoring, and classwork). Keep in mind that RSA test results are just one data point in the multiple measures collected to determine the promotion of a student.

15. *Where is the chart that shows the required scores for each screening instrument?*

Here is the direct link: http://sde.ok.gov/sde/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/documents/files/RSA-K-3_FormativeAssessments_1.pdf

16. *The webinar repeatedly references the 45th percentile as the cutoff for the alternative assessment? We have previously been told the 40th. Were we misinformed?*

The 45th percentile only applies to the four alternative assessments. The 40th percentile applies to the screening instruments.

17. Please clarify again: Are students required to score at the 40th percentile to qualify for a Pathway 1 exemption? Is this the same as the end of third-grade benchmark?

The benchmarks for screening assessments are at the 40th percentile. Benchmarks are not a stationary number throughout the year; they increase as instruction occurs. If a student meets the end of third-grade benchmark on a screening instrument at any point from first through third grade, he or she is exempt from retention.

18. We use easyCBM as our screening instrument. Do students have to benchmark on just the vocabulary and reading portion, or is reading fluency included as well?

The benchmarks for screening must include the vendor's complete assessment.

19. We have been told that if students scored on a third-grade level at any point, they would be promoted. For example, the benchmark for the Developmental Reading Assessment (DRA) in the fall is a 30, and the spring is 38. Would that mean a score of 30 is sufficient for promotion?

All screening instruments require an end of third-grade benchmark score for promotion. However, DRA did not notify OSDE about the increase, so we will honor the score of 30 this year.

20. If our official screener is the Dynamic Indicators of Basic Early Literacy Skills (DIBELS) Next instrument, but we also use the Standardized Test for the Assessment of Reading (STAR), is it acceptable to use the STAR score of 393 for automatic promotion?

Yes.

21. If students make at least a 393 on the STAR, do they still have to take the end-of-year test?

A score of 393 exempts them from retention, but they must still take the end-of-year assessment, which is a requirement of the U.S. Department of Education.

22. In order to be considered proficient on the DIBELS Next benchmark at any time between first and third grade, does the student have to take the third-grade DIBELS test and score 330? For example, if a second-grade student scores 330 on the second-grade test, will that student need to retest using the third-grade DIBELS test?

Students in Kindergarten through 3rd grade are required to be assessed through an approved screener at the Beginning of Year (BOY) and End of Year (EOY) to meet RSA requirements. If a student has a composite score of 330 on the DIBELS Next benchmark, the student would be exempt from retention in the third grade.

23. Please let us know if we understand this statement correctly: If a student scores 330 on a DIBELS end-of-year benchmark at any time first through third grade, he or she receives an exemption from retention.

Yes

24. If we use AimsWeb as a screening instrument and a student meets the end of third-grade benchmark of 116 before the end of the year benchmark is actually given, does that exempt them from retention?

Yes, if that is the benchmark score for the end of third grade. This is true for any first- through third-grade student.

25. If we use AimsWeb as a screening instrument and a student meets the end of third-grade benchmark, will they be exempt from retention?

Yes, anytime a student meets the end of 3rd grade benchmark on an Oklahoma State Board of Education approved screening instrument, the student is exempt from retention. The administration of the screener does not have to be the BOY or EOY, it can occur at any point during the school year.

26. Does the 20-day requirement between administrations only apply to the alternative test and not the screening instrument?

Yes. However, the OSDE RSA team does not recommend giving the screening instrument more than once a week.

27. Are 20 school days or calendar days required between administrations of an alternative assessment?

The requirement is 20 calendar days.

28. What if we are out of school before the 20-day wait period for administering an alternative test?

An alternative test can be administered any time after students have taken the Oklahoma School Testing Program (OSTP) assessment. Students must wait 20 calendar days before taking another alternative test. A student can come to the school during the summer to take the alternative test if needed.

29. Can we give the Iowa Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) in May and have the SRPT meetings based on screening instruments and ITBS results, or do we need to wait until after summer?

Yes, the SRPT can use those measures to make decisions without waiting for the official results.

30. Before the end of the spring semester, are we permitted to administer an alternative test that can exempt a student from the OSTP retention requirement?

Yes, as long as the student has completed the OSTP, they can take 1 of the 4 alternative assessments.

31. Will we have access to the free online reading program Ticket to Read this summer?

This summer, Ticket to Read is only available at no cost to Voyager Passport grantees.

32. Does Pre-K count as an RSA retention if the parent requested to start Pre-K a year later rather than starting and then repeating Pre-K another year?

No, students must actually repeat a grade for it to count as retention.

33. What is a transition year?

T-1, for example, is a transition year designed for a student who is not quite ready for traditional first grade and needs a smaller teacher-to-student ratio and additional support. At the end of the school year, if the student has advanced enough, he or she can enter traditional second grade. If not, he or she enters traditional first grade. The transition year can occur at any grade level from Pre-K through third.

34. Do I understand correctly that with good-cause exemption 6, a student doesn't have to be on an Individualized Education Program (IEP) for reading?

That is correct. However, a student exempted under item 6 must be on an Academic Progress Plan (APP). IEP students would use good-cause exemption 5, which only requires one year of retention.

35. Can you tell me where it says what to do for third-graders who have been sent to fourth-grade on a good-cause exemption?

The complete link to RSA legislation is pasted below. Please see the following excerpt: (e) Any student promoted on the basis of a good cause exemption listed in 70 O.S. 1210.508C(K) should continue to receive intensive reading instruction and intensive instructional services and supports through the continued implementation of an Academic Progress Plan (APP) to remedy the reading deficiency.

<http://sde.ok.gov/sde/sites/ok.gov.sde/files/documents/files/RSA%20PROPOSED%20DRAFT%202010.15-27.pdf>