

# “3rd-Grade Reading Law”

A Parent Guide to Public Act 306



## About the Law:

- What is the law about?
- How will it affect my child?
- What do I need to know as a parent?
- What can I do to support my child?

## About the Law:

- Michigan's test scores on both the Michigan-based M-STEP ELA assessment and the NAEP (National Assessment of Educational Progress) reading assessment have shown a need for attention to early reading and literacy
- On the 2015 NAEP Michigan was **41st in the nation** for 4th grade reading achievement
- In an effort to boost reading achievement, **Michigan lawmakers passed Public Act 306 in October 2016**

## About the Law:

- To help more students to be proficient by the end of 3rd grade, the law requires extra support for K-3 students who are not at grade level in reading (Something GA had in place before the existence of this law)
- Also requires that a child be retained in 3rd grade if they are not reading at grade-level by the end of 3rd grade
- The law also states that a child may be retained in 3rd grade if he is one or more grade levels behind in reading at the end of 3rd grade.

# What the Law says vs What we already do

Expectations of the Law	Does GA do this already?
Benchmark students regularly with state approved resources.	Yes
Use that data to identify who needs more support.	Yes
Offer small group support with researched based resources.	Yes
Benchmark students below grade-level more regularly	Yes
Have an individualized plan for students below grade-level	Yes
Develop a "Read At Home" plan with parents.	No, This will be new

# What the Law says vs What we already do

Expectations of the Law

If a child is well below grade level by the end of the third grade, withhold promotion to 4th-grade.

Does GA do this already?

No, This will be new. But it is our goal to educate all of our students effectively to avoid grade level retention.

# What Parents Need To Know:

- Your child's reading progress will be closely monitored
- If your child is not reading where expected a plan to improve reading will be created. This includes:
  - Extra instruction or support in areas of need
  - Ongoing checks on reading progress
  - A Read At Home plan
- If you are notified your child may be retained you have the right to meet with school officials and to request an exemption if in the best interest of your child
- You have the right and are encouraged to be involved every step of the way!

# How might this impact my child?

- Your school will use tests in K-3rd grade to identify students that need extra help with reading. Students identified as needing more support:
  - are at risk of not passing the M-STEP ELA in 3rd grade
  - are not reading at the expected level for his or her grade level and time of year
- If your child is identified as needing additional supports (extra help), your school will provide your child with an **individual reading improvement plan**
- This means your child's teacher and school will work with your child to find where your child needs support in his or her reading development and create a plan to support him or her.



How might this impact my child?

If your child has an **individual reading improvement plan**:

- The extra supports in your child's reading improvement plan will occur in small groups during the school day
- Your child will **not** miss regular reading instruction
- Part of your child's reading plan will include a **read at home plan** that engages you and your child in reading and writing outside of the school day. This may include training or tips on how to work with your child at home.
- Your child may also be encouraged to participate in **summer reading programs**

How might this  
impact my child?

- Your child's teacher will also receive supports in evidence-based effective practices in teaching reading and writing

**Supporting all  
learners to grow  
as readers and  
writers**

# How might this impact my child?

- This part of the law will apply when this year's kindergartners (2016-2017) reach 3rd grade.
- A student **will not be promoted to 4th grade unless they:**
  - receive a reading score of less than 1 year behind on grade 3 ELA state assessment (M-STEP) or
  - show a grade 3 reading level on another test approved by superintendent of public instruction or
  - show a grade 3 reading level through a portfolio, or collection, of student work in all grade 3 ELA standards.
- A child will only be required to repeat 3rd grade **once**

## How might this impact my child?

- You will be notified by the state and district if
  - your child may be required to be retained
- **You as a parent have the right:**
  - to ask for a “good cause exemption” with the school or district within 30 days once notified
  - to request a meeting with school officials (principal, etc.)

How might this  
impact my child?

- Considerations may be made if your child:
  - Has an **IEP or 504 plan**
  - Is **English language learner** (second language learner)
  - Has had intensive intervention for 2 years and **was previously retained**
  - Has been **enrolled in current district for less than 2 years** and did not receive reading support
  - Is grade level in all other subjects
  - Is in the **best interest of the student and requested within 30 days**

# How might this impact my child?

- If a request is made, the district superintendent will make a decision in writing and notify parents
- The decision will be shared at least 30 days before school begins
- The decision is final

How might this  
impact my child?

If your child repeats 3rd grade:

- Class will be with a highly rated teacher and/or reading specialist
- Most of the day will be spent on reading instruction but some 4th grade standards will also be taught
- Students will still have an independent reading improvement plan and get extra support
- Student progress will be closely monitored