



# Pasco County Schools

Kurt S. Browning, Superintendent of Schools  
7227 Land O' Lakes Boulevard • Land O' Lakes, Florida 34638

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

The intent of the third-grade progression statute and the District's Student Progression Plan are to ensure that students have the necessary reading skills to be successful in grade 4 and beyond. According to **section 1008.25(5), Florida Statutes (F.S.), to be promoted to fourth grade, a third-grade student must score a Level 2 or above on the statewide Florida Standards Assessment – English Language Arts (FSA-ELA). Also, a parent of a student in grade 3, who is identified anytime during the year as being at-risk of retention, may request that the school immediately begin collecting portfolio evidence.**

If a student scores a level 1 on the statewide FSA-ELA, he/she may attend the district provided Summer Reading Camp to receive additional instruction. The state law prohibits the FSA-ELA from being the sole determiner of promotion to fourth grade. A third grader who scores Level 1 on the FSA-ELA may be exempt from mandatory retention if he/she meets one of the good cause exemptions described below:

1. Limited English Proficient (LEP) students who have had less than two years of instruction in an English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program based on the initial date of entry into a school in the US;
2. Students with disabilities whose Individual Educational Plan (IEP) indicates that participation in the statewide assessment program is not appropriate, consistent with the requirements of State Board of Education rule;
3. **Students who demonstrate an acceptable level of performance on a state-approved alternative standardized reading or English Language Arts assessment approved by the State Board of Education;**

*Under section 1008.25(6), F. S. (Eliminating Social Promotion), students who score a Level 1 on the grade 3 FSA-ELA may be promoted to fourth grade if they demonstrate through an approved alternative standardized reading assessment that they are reading on grade level as evidenced by mastery of the state standards. The SAT10, a state approved alternative standardized reading assessment, is another opportunity for students to demonstrate mastery of the state standards.*

4. **Students who demonstrate, through a student portfolio, that they are performing at least at Level 2 on the statewide standardized ELA assessment;**

*Under section 1008.25(6), F. S. (Eliminating Social Promotion), students who score a Level 1 on the grade 3 FSA-ELA may be promoted to fourth grade if they demonstrate through a student portfolio that they are reading on grade level as evidenced by mastery of the state standards. The student portfolio must:*

- *Be selected by the student's teacher;*
- *Be an accurate picture of the student's ability and only include student work that has been independently produced in the classroom;*
- *Include evidence that the standards assessed by the grade 3 FSA-ELA have been met. Such documentation could include performance on unit tests from the state provided examples, district's adopted core reading curriculum, evidence recorded in IRLA, as well*



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- *as, district developed quarterly checks. For each standard, at least three examples of mastery, as demonstrated by 70 percent or above on each sample, is required;*
  - *Be signed by the teacher and the principal as an accurate assessment of the required reading skills.*
5. Students with disabilities, who participate in the statewide standardized assessment and who have an IEP or 504 Plan that reflects that the student has received intensive instruction in reading or English Language Arts for more than two years, but still demonstrates a deficiency and was previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2 or grade 3;
  6. Students who have received intensive reading remediation for two or more years but still demonstrate a deficiency in reading and who were previously retained in kindergarten, grade 1, grade 2 or grade 3 for a total of two years;
  7. A student may not be retained more than once in grade 3.

The Read to Learn brochure provided by the Florida Department of Education provides additional information for families regarding third grade progression. The brochure can be accessed at <http://www.fldoe.org/core/fileparse.php/7539/urlt/readtolearn.pdf>

Please contact your child's school with any questions regarding your student's performance.

Sincerely,

*Vaughn Chandlee*