

# 3rd Grade Reading Law

## A Parent Guide to Public Act 306



### 1. What Is the Law All About?

- ★ In an effort to boost reading achievement, Michigan lawmakers passed Public Act 306 in October 2016.
- ★ 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.
- ★ To help more students be proficient by the end of the 3rd grade, the law requires extra support for K-3 students who are not at grade level in reading.
- ★ The law also states that a child may be retained in 3rd grade if he/she is one or more grade levels behind in reading at the end of 3rd grade.



### 2. What Do I Need to Know as a Parent?

- ★ 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!

### 3. How Will This Affect My Child?

#### In Grades K-3:

- ★ Your school will use tests to identify students that need extra help with reading. These students:
  - 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/her reading development and create a plan to support him/her.
- ★ 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 encourages you and your child to read and write outside of the school day.
  - Your child may also be encouraged to participate in summer reading programs.
- ★ 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.

#### In 3rd Grade:

- ★ Starting in 2019-2020, a student will not be promoted to 4th grade unless he or she:
  - Receives a reading score of less than 1 year behind on grade 3 ELA state assessment (M-STEP).
  - Shows a grade 3 reading level on another test approved by the superintendent of public instruction.
  - Shows 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.
- ★ 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.).



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### 3. How Will This Affect My Child? Cont'

Are there any exceptions? Considerations **may** be made if your child:

- Has an IEP or 504 plan.
- Is an English Learner who has less than 3 years of English instruction.
- Has had a reading improvement plan 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.

- ★ 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.



If your child repeats 3rd grade:

- ★ His/her 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.

### 4. What Can I Do to Support My Child?

- ★ Read at home with your child daily with books they enjoy - even in the summer. Some ways to do this:
  - Read out loud to your child.
  - Listen to your child read.
  - Echo read (you read a line, then they repeat).
  - Read together at the same time.
  - Reread or retell favorite stories.
  - Talk to your child about the reading.
- ★ As you read:
  - Ask your child to share what they remember.
  - Ask questions about the reading.
  - Talk about your favorite parts, what you have learned, or who is in the book and what they do.
  - Talk about the pictures in the book how they connect to the words on the page.
  - Help connect the stories to your child's life or other books you have read.
- ★ Encourage writing - let children write the sounds they hear, spelling is developmental and a work in progress.
- ★ Be involved in your child's education and support the reading plan if your child has one.
- ★ Talk to and with your kids a lot - knowing more words helps kids to understand the words they read better.



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Contact your building principal for further information and support for your child.