

Office of Academics

Nicole M. Mancini, Ed.D., Chief Academic Officer

600 Southeast Third Avenue

Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

phone: 754-321-2618

nicole.mancini@browardschools.com

<https://www.browardschools.com/domain/12424>

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Dr. Vickie L. Cartwright
Superintendent of Schools

Dear Third Grade Parent/Guardian:

Thank you for being part of the Broward County Public Schools family. This letter is designed to help you understand Florida's requirements for third grade students to be promoted to the fourth grade. Broward County Public Schools (BCPS) is committed to supporting the unique learning needs of our diverse student population and ensuring our students are prepared for success in their education at every grade level and beyond.

In accordance with Rule 6A-6.053, Florida Administrative Code (F.A.C.), a kindergarten through grade 3 student is identified as having a substantial deficiency in reading if any of the following criteria are met:

- The student scores at the lowest achievement level/benchmark as identified by the publisher during a universal screening period, on an assessment listed in the district's approved District K-12 Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan, and beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, students scoring at the lowest achievement level/benchmark on the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system pursuant to s. 1008.25(8), F.S.;
- The student scores at the lowest achievement level/benchmark as identified by the publisher during progress monitoring administration at any time during the school year, on an assessment listed in the district's approved District K-12 Comprehensive Evidence-Based Reading Plan, and beginning in the 2022-2023 school year, students scoring at the lowest achievement level/benchmark on the coordinated screening and progress monitoring system pursuant to s. 1008.25(8), F.S.; or
- The student has demonstrated through consecutive formative assessments or teacher observation data, minimum skill levels for reading competency in one or more of the areas of phonological awareness; phonics; vocabulary, including oral language skills; reading fluency; and reading comprehension.

Students who are currently exhibiting a substantial reading deficiency based on their performance on the Florida Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST), Benchmark Advance Unit Assessments, or through teacher observations will be given intensive reading instruction and supports at school. The student's progress in reading will be closely monitored and the intensive instruction until the student demonstrates reading ability that is on grade level for third grade.

In accordance with Section (s.) 1008.25(4)(c), Florida Statutes (F.S.), students identified with a substantial reading deficiency must be covered by a federally required student plan, such as an individual educational plan (IEP), an individualized progress monitoring plan, or both, as necessary.

Students who continue to struggle in reading will be placed on a Progress Monitoring Plan (PMP). Parents of these students **will be** notified in writing of the following:

- Your child has been identified as having a substantial deficiency in reading
- A description of the current services that are provided to the student

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- A description of the proposed intensive interventions and supports that the student will be provided, which are designed to improve the identified area of reading deficiency, and
- Strategies, including multisensory strategies, through a read-at-home plan the parents can use to help their child improve his or her reading skills.

According to Florida law [section 1008.25(5), all third-grade students have at least four opportunities to meet the state's promotion criteria. A student may be promoted to fourth grade if the child demonstrates reading mastery through one of the following:

1. Florida's Assessment of Student Thinking (FAST) during PM3– Score at Level 2 or higher
2. Portfolio of student work demonstrating mastery of third grade B.E.S.T. Standards for ELA
3. Performance on a state approved alternate assessment (other than the FAST)
4. Summer Reading Academy

By Florida law, students with a reading deficiency that is not improved by the end of third grade, and who do not meet one of the criteria outlined in this letter or do not have a good cause exemption, must be retained. BCPS third grade promotion criteria for good cause are identified in School Board Policy 6000.1. To review, visit <https://www.browardschools.com/Page/37754>.

In addition, please note:

- All BCPS third grade students participate in the Third Grade Performance-Based Portfolio. Parents may request, at any time, to see their child's performance on the portfolio.
- The district recommends that third grade students who do not meet the requirements for promotion attend the 2023 Summer Reading Academy. Enrollment and registration information for the 2023 Summer Reading Academy will be provided to the parents of identified students May 2023.
- Students who do not pass the statewide, standardized FAST for ELA with a Level 2 or higher, and do not meet any third-grade promotion criteria, will be given the opportunity for mid-year promotion for third grade, which will take place in September 2023.

Additional guidance about reading requirements for third grade students and promotion to fourth grade can be found at: <http://www.fldoe.org/academics/standards/just-read-fl/third-grade-guidance.stml>

BCPS is proud to partner with you in your child's education and is dedicated to educating all students to reach their highest potential. If you have questions about your child's reading performance or questions about the information provided in this letter, please contact your child's teacher.

Thank you for your continued support and assistance.

Sincerely,



Dr. Nicole Mancini
Chief Academic Officer
Broward County Public Schools