



3rd Grade Reading Assessment - 2017

www.mdek12.org/literacy

Key Information and Dates

- 1. About the test:** The *Literacy-Based Promotion Act* requires all 3rd grade public school students to pass a reading test in order to qualify for promotion to the 4th grade. Beginning in the 2016-17 school year, the reading portion of the **Mississippi Assessment Program (MAP) English Language Arts (ELA) test** will determine whether students meet the requirement for promotion. Students who do not meet the promotion requirement on the 3rd Grade MAP ELA test will be given two retesting opportunities on an alternative test. The alternative test is called the **3rd Grade Reading Alternative Assessment**.
- 2. Test format:** Both the 3rd Grade MAP ELA and the 3rd Grade Reading Alternative Assessment are multiple-choice tests that are given online via a computer or tablet in your child's school.
- 3. Content and skills:** Both tests assess the Mississippi College- and Career-Readiness Standards of reading for foundational skills, informational text, literature, and language.
- 4. Testing dates:**
 - **April 17 – 25, 2017:** 3rd Grade MAP ELA assessment testing window (Districts on Spring Break will test on alternate dates.)
 - **May 15 – 19, 2017:** 3rd Grade Reading Alternative Assessment (first retest opportunity)
 - **June 26 – August 4, 2017:** 3rd Grade Reading Alternative Assessment (second retest opportunity)
- 5. Test results:** Parents and teachers will receive a student report for the reading portion of the 3rd Grade MAP ELA test before **May 15, 2017**. The report will indicate whether the student **meets or does not meet** the Literacy-Based Promotion Act promotion requirement. Students who do not meet the promotion requirement will be scheduled for the 3rd Grade Reading Alternative Assessment during the window of May 15-19, 2017. Students who do not pass the alternative assessment will be given a final opportunity to retest during the window of June 26-August 4, 2017.

Why must 3rd grade students pass a reading test to be promoted to the 4th grade?

The *Literacy-Based Promotion Act (2013)* requires 3rd grade students to demonstrate at the end of the school year that they are ready for 4th grade reading instruction. Research has proven that students who are not reading on grade level at the end of 3rd grade are likely to struggle as they progress in school. Third grade students who do not pass the reading test may qualify for an exemption and be promoted. Ask your child's teacher about "good cause" exemptions.

What should I ask my child's teacher now?

- 1.** Is my child reading grade-level books, stories, poems, and articles with fluency and understanding?
- 2.** What are the results of my child's STAR report? This report provides information about your child's reading progress throughout the school year.
- 3.** What can I do at home to prepare my child for the 3rd Grade MAP ELA test?

How can I support my child's reading development at home?

- 1.** Build reading accuracy by having your child read aloud. Point out any missed words and help your child read the words correctly. Then have your child reread the sentence to be sure he/she understands the meaning.
- 2.** Create a quiet place for your child to study, do homework, and read.
- 3.** Carve out time every day for your child to do homework, study, and read, making these activities a part of your child's daily routine.
- 4.** Talk frequently with your child's teacher about his/her progress. Ask for specific tips about what you can do to help at home.

Resources for Parents

Visit www.StrongReadersMS.com for an overview of the *Literacy-Based Promotion Act* and to learn strategies that can be used at home to help improve reading outcomes for children.