



Reading Matters

A Parent Guide to Michigan's 3rd Grade Reading Law

1 About the law

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

2 How schools will help

Your child's school is committed to helping all children become proficient, motivated readers. Your child's reading progress will be closely monitored beginning in kindergarten. If your child's reading is not progressing as expected, a plan for improvement will be created. This plan includes:

- Extra instruction or support in areas of need.
- Ongoing monitoring on reading progress.
- A read-at-home plan that encourages you and your child to read and write outside of the school day and throughout the summer.

Your child will receive regular classroom instruction and additional reading support. Starting in the 2019–2020 school year, in order to be promoted from 3rd to 4th grade, your child must score less than one year behind on the state reading assessment, or demonstrate a 3rd-grade reading level through an alternate test or portfolio of student work. If you are notified that your child may be retained, you have the right to meet with school officials and to request, within 30 days, an exemption if in the best interest of your child. The district will make the final decision. If you are concerned about your child's reading development, talk to his or her teacher.

3 How parents can help

Here are some suggestions for all parents who want to help their child read well:

- Read with your child every day (even in the summer).
- Listen to your child read.
- Echo read (You read a line, then they repeat).
- Choral read (Read together at the same time).
- Reread or retell favorite stories.
- Talk to your child about the stories you have read.

As you read:

- Ask your child to share what they remember.
- Ask questions about the story.
- Talk about your favorite parts, what you've learned, or who is in the book and what they do.
- Talk about the pictures in the book, and how they connect to words on the page.
- Help connect the stories to your child's life or other books you've read.

And, lastly:

- **Talk with your child often:** Knowing more words helps kids to understand the words they read better.
- **Encourage writing:** Let children write the sounds they hear. Spelling is developmental and a work in progress.
- **Stay involved:** Participate in your child's education and support the reading plan if your child has one.



Repeat
the book



Engage
and enjoy



Ask
questions



Do
more

Research shows that reading with your child—not to them—greatly increases children's language and literacy, and puts them on a path to grade level reading.

Watch this video about how to "READ" with your child and try it at home: <https://youtu.be/FjJD1UDwVKg>

Contact your building principal for more information and support for your child: