

**How can families help their children become strong readers?**

# 3RD GRADE READING ASSESSMENT

**FOR YEAR 2022**

## KEY INFORMATION & 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. The reading portion of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program (MAAP) 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 MAAP ELA test will be given two retesting opportunities.

**2. Test format:** Both the 3rd Grade MAAP 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. Students will have 180 minutes or 3 hours to complete this test.

**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 4 – 22, 2022:** 3rd Grade MAAP ELA Assessment Testing Window
- **May 9 – 13, 2022:** 3rd Grade Reading Alternative Assessment (first retest opportunity)
- **June 20 – July 8, 2022:** 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 MAAP ELA test before May 9, 2022. 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 9-13, 2022. Students who do not pass the alternative assessment will be given a final opportunity to retest during the window of June 20 – July 8, 2022.

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### 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. How is my child performing on the universal screener?  
*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 MAAP ELA test?

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

- Have your child read aloud.
- Point out any missed words.
- Help your child read missed words correctly.
- Have your child reread the sentence to be sure he/she understands the meaning.
- Create a quiet place for your child to study, do homework, and read.
- Make time to do homework, study, and make reading a part of their daily routine.
- Talk to your child's teacher about his/her progress, tips, and what you can do to help at home.



**StrongReadersMS.com** gives you the needed resources, activities and information so you can help your children become strong readers and strong leaders.



Open the camera app on your phone and scan the QR code to visit **StrongReadersMS.com!**



FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT [MDEK12.ORG/LITERACY](https://mdek12.org/literacy)



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### NEWS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release: January 19, 2022*

*How can families help their children become strong readers?*

**STRONG READERS  
STRONG LEADERS  
MISSISSIPPI**

**3RD  
GRADE  
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FOR YEAR 2022

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Open the camera app on your phone and scan the QR code to visit [StrongReadersMS.com!](http://StrongReadersMS.com)

### **3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading assessment will be administered from April 4-22**

JACKSON, Miss. – The Mississippi Department of Education (MDE) is announcing that the 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading assessment, which helps determine promotion to the 4<sup>th</sup> grade, will be administered from April 4-22 across the state.

The Literacy-Based Promotion Act (LBPA) enacted in 2013 was created to help ensure kindergarten through 3<sup>rd</sup>-grade students develop good reading skills. The law was amended in 2016 and requires all Mississippi 3<sup>rd</sup> grade public school students to score at level 3 or higher on the reading portion of the Mississippi Academic Assessment Program English Language Arts (MAAP-ELA) test to qualify to be promoted to 4<sup>th</sup> grade. Exemptions apply to certain students with disabilities, students learning English or students who have been previously retained.

Third-graders will be given up to three attempts to pass the assessment. If a student fails the first test, a retest will be given May 9-13. If a student fails the retest, a second retest will be given June 20-July 8. Schools and districts will offer intervention to students who fail the tests.

The MDE has shared various resources with school districts and teachers to better ensure students are prepared for the assessment. In fall 2021, MDE held eight regional family literacy meetings. Additional MDE resources available to parents and guardians include:

- [StrongReaders.com/thirdgrade](https://www.strongreaders.com/thirdgrade) – The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade section of MDE’s Strong Readers, Strong Leaders website is full of fun activities families and students can use to improve reading. Topics cover vocabulary, comprehension, working with sounds, working with letters and sounds and reading accurately to understand.
- [3rd Grade Reading Assessment Flyer](#), which contains information about testing dates, format, results, the importance of passing the assessment and how families can support reading development at home.
- [www.mdek12.org/literacy](http://www.mdek12.org/literacy) - Additional guidance, resources and information about the LBPA may be found online by visiting the Literacy section of MDE’s website.
- Social media – MDE will share tips on its Facebook and Twitter platforms in the coming weeks.

In 2019, 74.5% of 3<sup>rd</sup> graders passed the assessment on the first attempt. By the third attempt, a total of 85.6% passed. The Mississippi State Board of Education (SBE) suspended administering the assessment for the 2019-20 school year due to the state of emergency Gov. Tate Reeves declared in March 2020 to combat the COVID-19 pandemic. The 3<sup>rd</sup> grade reading assessment was administered once in the 2020-21 school year, however; due to the state of emergency, the SBE waived the passing requirement. The state of emergency expired Nov. 20, 2021.

The LBPA takes a comprehensive approach to helping teachers and school leaders effectively teach reading and implement an ongoing system to monitor student progress. The law enables MDE to deploy literacy coaches to schools where data show students struggle the most with reading. Coaches work directly with teachers and administrators to help them become more effective teachers of reading. Currently, 56 literacy coaches serve 95 schools and 51 districts.

Mississippi’s K-3<sup>rd</sup> grade students are screened three times annually to determine their reading levels. Based on those results, teachers can focus on a student’s needed improvement skills. Parents are also made aware of their child’s results and can check with their child’s teachers for helpful strategies specific to their child’s needs.

“Mississippi’s K-3 teachers, administrators and school leaders have worked hard to assess and prepare 3<sup>rd</sup> graders to meet reading standards even during the pandemic,” said Dr. Carey Wright, state superintendent of education. “MDE encourages parents to utilize resources from MDE and from their child’s teacher and school to equip students to succeed.”

Find all MDE news releases at [mdek12.org/news](http://mdek12.org/news).

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