

UNDERSTANDING ARKANSAS' THIRD GRADE READING REQUIREMENTS



HELPING EVERY CHILD BECOME A CONFIDENT READER

The Arkansas LEARNS Act and the Right to Read Act focus on making sure every child can read on grade level by the end of third grade. Third-grade students across Arkansas must show that they meet a minimum reading standard to move on to fourth grade.

THE GOAL IS SIMPLE: TO GIVE EVERY STUDENT THE STRONG READING FOUNDATION THEY NEED FOR SUCCESS IN SCHOOL AND BEYOND.

EARLY SUPPORT FOR STRUGGLING READERS

The intent of this law is not to retain students—it's to identify and support struggling readers early, well before third grade. Starting in kindergarten, schools keep track of each child's reading progress. If a student shows signs of struggling, they receive extra reading help right away which may include:

- small-group instruction
- focused literacy lessons
- ongoing progress monitoring
- Individual Reading Plan (IRP)—a personalized plan that is shared with parents.

All reading instruction is based on the science of reading and delivered by trained educators.



WHAT DOES "MEETING THE READING STANDARD" MEAN?



THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS WILL TAKE THE ATLAS ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (ELA) ASSESSMENT IN SPRING 2027.

LEVEL 2 OR HIGHER

A SCORE OF LEVEL 2 OR ABOVE ON THE GRADE 3 ATLAS SUMMATIVE ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS ASSESSMENT (ELA) IS REQUIRED TO BE CONSIDERED FOR PROMOTION TO THE 4TH GRADE.

Good Cause Exemptions

IF A STUDENT DOES NOT MEET THE READING STANDARD, THEY MAY STILL MOVE TO FOURTH GRADE IF THEY QUALIFY FOR A GOOD CAUSE EXEMPTION.

If a Student Isn't Promoted

If a student doesn't meet the reading requirement, schools will provide intensive support to help them catch up, including:



- A highly effective reading teacher
- At least 90 minutes of daily reading instruction
- An at-home reading plan to support progress outside school
- Ongoing communication and support for families
- Access to literacy tutoring grants, where available

OUR COMMITMENT

At Bryant Public Schools, we're committed to ensuring every child receives the support they need to become a confident reader.

Through early screening, targeted intervention, and individualized reading plans, our teachers provide the support and instruction every student needs to succeed.