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 MAAP 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.