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.

How can families help their children become strong readers?

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

FOR MORE DETAILED INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT MDEK12.ORG/LITERACY