

READING SUFFICIENCY ACT TESTING AND PROCEDURES

Every student enrolled in kindergarten shall be assessed at the beginning, middle and end of each school year using a screening instrument approved by the State Board of Education for the acquisition of reading skills including, but not limited to, phonemic awareness, letter recognition, and oral language skills as identified in the subject matter standards adopted by the State Board of Education. Every first, second, and third grade student shall be assessed at the beginning, middle and end of each school year using a screening instrument approved by the State Board of Education for the acquisition of reading skills including, but not limited to, phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, for the grade level in which enrolled. Any student who is assessed and who is not meeting grade-level targets in reading shall be provided a program of reading instruction designed to enable the student to acquire the appropriate grade level of reading skills.

Progress of Reading Instruction and Proficiency Team

The program of reading instruction shall align with the State subject matter standards, shall be based on a three-tiered Response to Intervention (“RtI”) model, and shall include provisions of the Reading Enhancement and Acceleration Development (READ) Initiative adopted by the school district. The plan may include, but is not limited to:

1. Sufficient additional in-school instructional time sufficient for the acquisition of phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension, and
2. If necessary, tutorial instruction after regular school hours, on Saturdays, and during the summer,
3. Assessments identified for diagnostic purposes and periodic monitoring to measure the acquisition of reading skills as identified in the student’s program of reading instruction.

A student enrolled in first or second grades who has been assessed and found not to be meeting grade-level targets in reading shall be entitled to supplemental instructional services and supports in reading until the student is determined by the results of a screening instrument to be meeting grade-level targets in reading. The program of reading instruction for each student shall be developed by a Student Reading Proficiency Team and shall include supplemental instructional services and supports. Each team shall be composed of the:

1. The parent or guardian of the student,
2. The teacher assigned to the student who had responsibility for reading instruction in that academic year,

3. A teacher who is responsible for reading instruction and is assigned to teach in the next grade level of the student, and
4. A certified reading specialist, if one is available.

The reading progress of kindergarten students at risk for reading difficulties at the beginning of the school year shall be monitored throughout the school year and measured mid-year and at year-end. Kindergarten students who are not meeting grade-level targets by mid-year in reading shall be provided a program of reading instruction designed to enable the student to acquire the appropriate grade-level reading skills.

A Probationary Promotion Reading Proficiency Team may evaluate a student for probationary promotion if the student is enrolled in third grade, is not eligible for automatic promotion, and does not meet the criteria established by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading portion of the third-grade statewide criterion-referenced test. The Probationary Promotion Reading Proficiency Team shall be composed of:

1. The parent or guardian of the student,
2. The teacher assigned to the student who had responsibility for reading instruction in that academic year,
3. A teacher who is responsible for reading instruction and is assigned to teach in the next grade level of the student, and
4. A certified reading specialist.

The principal and superintendent must approve the probationary promotion. For a student who is approved for probationary promotion, the Probationary Promotion Reading Proficiency Team shall continue to review the student's reading performance and repeat the evaluation and recommendation process each academic year until the student demonstrates he or she is meeting grade-level targets on an approved screening instrument such that the student is on track to be college and career ready.

Throughout the school year, progress monitoring shall continue; and diagnostic assessment, if determined appropriate, shall be provided. Year-end reading skills shall be measured to determine reading success. The program of reading instruction shall continue until the student is determined to be meeting grade-level targets by the results of approved reading assessments. If a reading instruction program is being provided for a student on an Individualized Education Program (IEP), a special education teacher must be consulted and the plan may be a separate document from the IEP, or an IEP team meeting may be convened and the plan could then be included in the student's IEP.

Grade Promotion After Participation in Summer Academy Programs

If, by the end of the second quarter of the school year, a teacher determines that a third-grade student is not reading at grade level, the parent or guardian shall be notified of the student's current reading level, the proposed program of reading instruction for the student, and the potential need for the student to participate in a summer academy (if offered by the district that

school year) or other program designed to assist the student in attaining grade-level reading skills.

A teacher who determines that a third-grade student is unable to meet the reading competencies required for completion of third grade may, after consultation with the parent or guardian of the student, recommend that the promotion of the student to the fourth grade be contingent upon the participation in and successful completion of the required reading competencies at a summer academy or other program. If the student does not participate in the summer academy or other program or does not successfully complete the reading competencies in the summer academy or other program, the student shall be retained in the third grade.

Program of Reading Instruction and Retention

For any third-grade student not reading at grade level, as determined by the screening instruments for the acquisition of reading skills approved by the State Board of Education, a new program of reading instruction shall be developed and implemented. The new program of reading instruction shall include provisions of the READ Initiative adopted by the school district and may include specialized tutoring.

The minimum criteria for grade-level performance of third-grade students pursuant to the Reading Sufficiency Act shall be that students are able to read and comprehend grade-level text. To determine the promotion and retention of third-grade students pursuant to the Reading Sufficiency Act, the State Board of Education shall use only the scores for the standards for reading foundations/processes and vocabulary portions of the statewide third-grade assessment administered pursuant to 70 O.S. Section 1210.508 and shall not use the scores from the other language arts portions of the assessment. The performance levels established by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability pursuant to Section 1210.508 shall ensure that students meeting the performance-level criteria are performing at grade level on the reading foundations and vocabulary portions of the statewide third-grade assessment.

Each program of reading instruction shall be based upon a three-tiered Response to Intervention ("RtI") model and shall include:

1. For students identified for Tier I intervention, a minimum of ninety (90) minutes of uninterrupted daily scientific-research-based reading instruction;
2. For students identified for Tier II intervention, at least an amount of uninterrupted scientific-research-based reading instructional time that is:
 - A. Based on specific student needs;
 - B. Reflects the needed intensity and/or frequency as identified on a screening tool, diagnostic assessment and/or progress monitoring instrument; and
 - C. Is determined by the classroom teacher reading specialist (if available) and building principal.

3. For students identified for Tier III intervention, at least forty-five (45) to sixty (60) minutes of additional uninterrupted daily scientific-research-based reading instruction in addition to the ninety (90) minutes of uninterrupted daily reading instruction provided under Tier I.

The parent of any student who is found to have a reading deficiency and is not meeting grade-level reading targets, and has been provided a reading assessment plan, shall be notified in writing of the following:

1. That the student has been identified as having a substantial deficiency in reading;
2. A description of the current services being provided to the student pursuant to a conjoint measure model such that a reader and a text are placed on the same scale;
3. A description of the proposed supplemental instructional services designed to remediate the reading deficiency that will be provided to the student;
4. That the student will **not** be promoted to the fourth grade if the reading deficiency is not remediated by the end of the third grade, unless the student is otherwise promoted pursuant to the school district's Student Retention and Promotion Policy or is exempt for good cause;
5. Strategies for parents to use in helping their child succeed in reading proficiency;
6. The grade-level performance scores of the student;
7. That, while the results of statewide assessments are the initial determinant, they are not the sole determiner of promotion and that portfolio reviews and assessments are also available in considering promotion or retention; and
8. The specific criteria and policies of the school district for mid-year promotion.

Only the scores from the reading comprehension portions of the third-grade criterion-referenced test shall be used to determine the promotion and retention of third grade students pursuant to the Reading Sufficiency Act. For students who do not meet the academic requirements for promotion, the school district may promote the student only as provided for in the school district's Student Retention and Promotion Policy. For details on the good-cause exceptions and other requests to exempt students from the academic requirements for promotion, see the school district's Student Promotion and Retention Policy.

Students who do not meet the performance criteria established by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading portions of the statewide third-grade assessment and who are not subject to a good cause exemption, and who do not qualify for promotion or "probationary promotion", shall be retained in the third grade and provided intensive instructional services and supports.

Instruction and Interventions for Retained Students

The school district shall conduct a review of the reading instruction program for all students who do not meet the performance criteria established by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading portions of the statewide assessment administered to the student. The review shall address additional supports and services needed to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency. A student portfolio shall be completed for each retained student.

Students retained due to a reading deficiency will be provided intensive interventions in reading as well as intensive instructional services and supports to remediate the identified areas of reading deficiency, including a minimum of ninety (90) minutes of daily, uninterrupted, scientific-research based reading instruction. Retained students shall be provided other strategies prescribed by the school district, which may include, but are not limited to:

1. small group instruction,
2. reduced teacher-student ratios,
3. more frequent progress monitoring,
4. tutoring or mentoring,
5. transition classes containing third and fourth grade students,
6. extended school day, week, or year, and
7. summer reading academies, if available.

Additionally, students who are retained will be provided a high-performing teacher who can address the needs of the student, based on student performance data and above-satisfactory performance appraisals. In addition to the required reading enhancement and acceleration strategies, students who are retained will be provided at least one of the following instructional options:

1. supplemental tutoring in scientific research-based reading programs in addition to the regular reading block, including tutoring before or after school,
2. a parent-guided "Read at Home" assistance plan developed by the State Department of Education,
3. a mentor or tutor with specialized reading training.

The school district may, in accordance with rules of the State Board of Education, use screening assessments, alternative assessments, or portfolio reviews in order to reevaluate a retained third grade student for mid-year promotion to the fourth grade. See the school district's Promotion and Retention Policy for details on mid-year promotion.

Copies of the results of all assessments administered shall be made a part of the student's permanent record.

Reading Enhancement and Acceleration Development (READ) Initiative

The school district establishes the following READ Initiative. The focus of the school district's READ Initiative is to prevent the retention of third grade students by offering intensive accelerated reading instruction to third grade students who have failed to meet the reading standards for promotion to fourth grade, and to kindergarten through third grade students who are exhibiting a reading deficiency.

The school district's READ Initiative will be provided to all kindergarten through third grade students at risk of retention as identified by the reading assessments administered to the student. The school district's READ Initiative program will be provided during regular school hours in addition to the regular reading instruction and will provide a reading curriculum that at a minimum, meets the following specifications:

1. assists students assessed as exhibiting a reading deficiency in developing the ability to read at grade level,
2. provides skill development in phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension,
3. provides scientific–research-based and reliable assessment,
4. provides initial and ongoing analysis of the reading progress of each student,
5. is implemented during regular school hours,
6. establishes at each school an Intensive Acceleration Class for retained third-grade students who subsequently do not meet the performance criteria established by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading portions of the statewide assessment. The focus of the Intensive Acceleration Class shall be to increase the reading level of a child at least two grade levels in one school year.
7. provide reports to the State Department of Education, upon request, on the specific intensive reading interventions and support implemented,
8. provide to a student who has been retained in the third grade and has received intensive instructional services but is still not ready for grade promotion, the option of being placed in a transitional instructional setting. A transitional instructional setting shall specifically be designed to produce learning gains sufficient to meet fourth grade performance standards while remediating the student's areas of reading deficiency.

The Intensive Acceleration Class shall:

1. be provided to any student in the third grade who does not meet the performance criteria established by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading portion of the statewide assessments and who was retained in the third grade the prior year because of not meeting the performance criteria

established by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading portions of the statewide assessments,

2. have a reduced student-teacher ratio,
3. provide an uninterrupted reading instruction for the majority of student contact time each day and incorporate opportunities to master the fourth-grade state standards in other core subject areas,
4. use a reading program that is scientific-research-based and has proven results in accelerating student reading achievement within the same school year,
5. provide intensive language and vocabulary instruction using a scientific-research-based program, including use of a speech-language therapist,
6. include weekly progress monitoring measures to ensure progress is being made, and

Board of Education Reporting Requirements

The board of education will annually publish on the district's website, and report in writing in the format prescribed by the State Department of Education, to the State Board of Education by September 1 of each year the following information on the prior school year:

1. the progression of the district's students identified as having reading deficiencies and the policies and procedures of the school district on student retention and promotion,
2. the number and percentage of all students in grade three that did not meet the performance criteria established by the Commission for Educational Quality and Accountability on the reading portion of the statewide assessment,
3. by grade, the number and percentage of all students retained in grades three through ten,
4. information on the total number and percentage of students who were promoted for good cause, by each category of good cause as specified in the District's Promotion and Retention Policy, and
5. any revisions to the policies of the school district on student retention and promotion from the prior year.

Reference: OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 1210-508C, OKLA. STAT. tit. 70, § 1210-508E