

# Third Grade Reading Guarantee

***Through the Third Grade Reading Guarantee, we are going to bat for our struggling readers.***

- **Dr. Richard A. Ross,**  
**Superintendent of**  
**Public Instruction**

The ability to read is the foundation of learning. Research shows that children who are not reading at a third grade level by the end of grade three will likely have trouble learning in all classroom subjects in higher grades.

## **What is it?**

Ohio's Third Grade Guarantee ensures that every struggling reader gets the support he or she needs to be able to learn and achieve.

## **How does it work?**

In kindergarten through grade three, schools will evaluate all children to determine if they are reading as well as they should be. If a child appears to be falling behind in reading, the school will immediately start a reading improvement plan.

Schools will work closely with parents to help create and carry out their child's reading improvement plan. This plan will address the child's specific reading problems.

## **Advancing to fourth grade**

Except for students with special circumstances, students must meet a minimum score on the state reading test to move on to the fourth grade. In 2013-2014, the minimum score for advancement is 392. The student must attain this score when taking the state reading test in the fall or spring.

If the student remains in the third grade, the school must provide 90 minutes of reading instruction each school day.

A student can still take fourth grade classes in all other subjects, if the student is ready.

Schools can move students to the fourth grade in the middle of the year, if the student's reading improves.

## **How it helps**

Studies on Florida's version of the Third Grade Guarantee show that students who remained in the third grade and received intensive reading instruction, improved dramatically in overall school performance in years following.

**For more information visit:**  
[education.ohio.gov](http://education.ohio.gov)  
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**Guarantee**