

Third Grade Reading Guarantee

Academic Acceleration for Advanced Learners

GENERAL GUIDANCE

[State law](#) requires all school districts to develop and use a student acceleration policy. This law allows a district committee to place a student in a higher level than is typical, given the student's age.

A district committee, which includes the child's parents, teachers and other school professionals, may accelerate a student from one grade to a higher grade. A district committee also may accelerate a student in one or more subjects to a higher grade in those subjects, but not to a higher grade level.

The purpose of this law is to provide a student access to appropriately challenging learning opportunities. In most cases, this law does not apply to a student who is in curricular options with age peers such as ability grouping, honors courses and Advanced Placement courses.

More information on [academic acceleration](#) is available on the department's website.

IMPACT ON THIRD GRADE READING GUARANTEE

Students accelerated to third grade or to third grade reading:

The Third Grade Reading Guarantee applies to students accelerated to third grade or to third grade in reading. This means:

- The student takes a reading diagnostic assessment at the beginning of the school year; and
- The student must reach the promotion score on the grade 3 English language arts test to be promoted to fourth grade. A student may be exempt from this requirement. Information on exemptions to retention is available in the [Third Grade Reading Guarantee Guidance Manual](#).

Students accelerated to fourth grade or to fourth grade reading:

Students accelerated to fourth grade or to fourth grade in reading take fourth grade assessments and do not participate in the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.