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A special edition from the Offices of Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment

The Third-Grade Reading Guarantee

The Third-Grade Reading Guarantee now requires that students in kindergarten through grade three take a reading diagnostic to determine if the student is reading at grade level. The diagnostics are given at the beginning of each school year. Because of this, ODE should only expect students to have mastery of the previous school year's material. It is the goal of the Ohio Department of Education (ODE) to develop or identify the best possible tools to help diagnose reading deficiencies. This is why ODE recommends using the previous school year's diagnostic screener. This works for all grades, except for kindergarten.

In an effort to use diagnostic assessments aligned to the common core, ODE has recommended that schools use the ODE kindergarten short screener (or a comparable tool) to assess kindergarten students. The Kindergarten Readiness Assessment--Literacy (KRA-L) is not aligned to the common core state standards. It is aligned to Ohio's original early learning content standards which were adopted in 2005. Because of this, ODE did not initially allow the KRA-L to be used for the purpose of the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee.

After further consideration and feedback from stakeholders, ODE will **now** allow schools to use the KRA-L for the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee only in the 2012-2013 school year. Ohio is currently in the process of revising its early learning and development standards for children which will include end of preschool standards aligned to the common core state standards. These standards are expected to be adopted by the State Board of Education in October 2012. For the 2013-2014 school year, ODE will have a new diagnostic assessment for kindergarten based on these new standards.

Schools wishing to use the KRA-L must still meet the requirements of the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee. This includes administering the assessment by September 30, 2012. Students who receive a KRA-L score that falls in Band 1, which indicates "Assess broadly for intense instruction", should be considered and reported as *not on-track*. Students scoring above this range will be considered *on-track*. More guidance on the KRA-L and the Third-Grade Reading Guarantee can be found on ODE's [website](#). These resources will continue to be updated as new information becomes available.

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