

Early Literacy Component Changes Related to House Bill 96

Ohio's Early Literacy Component measures how well districts and schools support K–3 reading development. Recent legislative updates, specifically changes introduced through **House Bill 96 (136th GA)**, require adjustments to how components are calculated and how ratings are assigned.

Key Measures in the Early Literacy Component

The Early Literacy Component is based on three measures (per [ORC 3302.03](#)):

- **Proficiency in Grade 3 Reading (40%)**
- **Improving K–3 Literacy (25%)**
- **Promotion to Fourth Grade (35%)**

What Changed Under House Bill 96

House Bill 96 revised how the **Promotion to Fourth Grade** measure is defined.

For report card purposes only, students count as being promoted to the fourth grade if they:

- Score **700+ on the Grade 3 ELA OST**, or
- Score **50+ on the Reading subscore section of the Grade 3 ELA OST**, or
- Meet the [cut score on an approved alternative assessment](#)

Under HB96, **parent requests, previous retentions, and IEP exemptions no longer count as promotion** for the purposes of this report card measure. **Note:** AASCD participants and English learners enrolled in U.S. fewer than three years remain excluded from this measure.

Rating Scale Adjustments

A new rating scale has been proposed to reflect updated performance distributions.

EARLY LITERACY COMPONENT RATING SCALE AND DESCRIPTIONS		
Effective August 31, 2026		
Score Range	Rating	Rating Description
Greater than or equal to 89%	5 Stars	Significantly exceeds state standards in early literacy
Greater than or equal to 75% but less than 89%	4 Stars	Exceeds state standards in early literacy
Greater than or equal to 61% but less than 75%	3 Stars	Meets state standards in early literacy
Greater than or equal to 47% but less than 61%	2 Stars	Needs support to meet state standards in early literacy
Less than 47%	1 Star	Needs significant support to meet state standards in early literacy

What Schools and Districts Need to Know

- Students can still be promoted to the fourth grade through the allowable exemptions outlined in [ORC 3313.608](#) (i.e., parent request, IEP exemption, previous retention, English learner exemption, alternate assessment exemption).
- HB 96 solely impacts how the measure on the report card is calculated, NOT whether a student can be promoted.
- The new rating scale accounts for the changes made in HB 96.
- Reporting retention/promotion in EMIS remains unchanged.

Resources

- [Third Grade Reading Guarantee Guidance Manual](#)
- [Alternative Reading Assessment promotion scores](#)
- [Early Literacy Component Updates Webinar Recording](#)
- [Early Literacy Component Updates Webinar Presentation Slides](#)
- [Retained/Promoted Status Element in EMIS](#)