

# Third Grade Reading Guarantee: Teacher Qualification Requirements

A teacher of a grade 3 student who has been retained or is on a reading improvement and monitoring plan (RIMP) must have at least one year of teaching experience and must meet one of the following qualifications required in law:

- Has a K-12 reading endorsement on the teacher’s license;
- Completed a master’s degree with a major in reading or literacy;
- Rated “most effective” for reading instruction consecutively for the most recent two years based on state-approved tests of student growth;
- Rated “above expected value-added” in reading instruction consecutively for the most recent two school years;
- Earned a passing score on a rigorous test of principles of scientifically research-based reading instruction (*The only test that satisfies this qualification is the Praxis 5205 – formerly the Praxis 5203.*);
- Educators issued licenses in early childhood (preK-3), middle childhood (4-9) education, or K-12 Intervention Specialists (Early Childhood, Mild/Moderate, Moderate/Intensive, Hearing Impaired, Visually Impaired, or Gifted) on or after July 1, 2017; or
- Holds a license issued by the Board of Speech-Language Pathology and Audiology under Chapter 4753 of the Ohio Revised Code and a professional pupil services license as a school speech-pathologist issued by the State Board of Education.

**First-Year Teachers:** A teacher who does not have at least one year of teaching experience may serve as the teacher of record as long as the teacher holds one of these qualifications and is assigned a mentor who meets the qualifications. A first-year teacher’s Resident Educator mentor may serve in this role as long as he or she meets the teacher qualifications above.

**The assigned teacher (the teacher of record):** The teacher to whom a student is assigned is the “teacher of record.” The classroom teacher is the primary teacher responsible for the student’s reading instruction and spends the most time with that student. The assigned teacher must maintain the necessary qualifications outlined by law and is responsible for assigning the student a reading grade. The teacher of record is responsible for the reading growth of the student. The student’s progress will be reported on the teacher of record’s student growth measure. A teacher may provide any services required by the Third Grade Reading Guarantee in place of the student’s assigned teacher but must:

- Meet the teacher qualification requirements;

- Have the service approved by the teacher of record and the school principal; and
- Document such an assignment in the student's reading improvement and monitoring plan.

## GUIDANCE FOR EACH TEACHER QUALIFICATION

**Reading endorsement:** A reading endorsement is for K-12 and appears on a teacher's certificate or license as #059902. No other endorsements fulfill this requirement. A passing score on a test is not required if there was no corresponding test required when the reading endorsement was earned. The reading P-3 notation appearing on some early childhood P-3 licenses is not a reading endorsement.

**Master's degree in reading:** A master's degree must contain the words "reading" or "literacy" in the degree name or on the transcript as the major area of study, specialization or concentration. The words "reading" or "literacy" must be explicitly located somewhere on the transcript or diploma. Doctoral degrees in reading or literacy also qualify.

**"Most effective" ratings:** The teacher must receive the rating for the most recent two years to qualify. To determine a "most effective" rating, use comparable test data to determine whether a teacher has attained a level 5 on a scale of 1-5. A vendor must develop an equivalent leveling for its product. Districts may only use approved vendor assessments for student growth for this purpose. *Since ratings were not issued for the 2019-2020 & 2020-2021 school years, "the most recent two years" will be the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school year.*

**"Above expected value-added" rating:** The teacher must receive the rating for the most recent two years to qualify. The "above expected value-added growth" is a measure best suited for fourth or fifth grade educators who are moving to third grade assignments. Specifically, this designation is defined as being two standard deviations above the mean of expected student growth. *Since ratings were not issued for the 2019-2020 & 2020-2021 school years, "the most recent two years" will be the 2017-2018 and 2018-2019 school year.*

**Reading Instruction Test – Praxis 5205 (Formerly the Praxis 5203):** The only test that satisfies this qualification is the Praxis 5205. Beginning on September 1, 2021, the Praxis 5203 will be discontinued and replaced by the Praxis 5205. *However, test takers who passed the Praxis 5203 prior to September 1, 2021 will still fulfill the Third Grade Reading Guarantee teacher qualification requirements.* The Praxis 5205 is not the same test used in the reading endorsement program (Subtests I & II) or the Foundations of Reading test (OAE 90). Passing the Praxis 5205 test will not result in a reading endorsement. Information about the Praxis 5205 can be found on the [testing company's website](#).

The table below has information about the Praxis 5203 and Praxis 5025's date of availability and qualifying scores:

Test Availability	Test	Qualifying Score
<b>Test available beginning September 1, 2021</b> <a href="#">Teaching Reading: Elementary</a>	Praxis 5205	159
<b>Test available until August 31, 2021</b> <a href="#">Teaching Reading: Elementary Education</a>	Praxis 5203	162

**Licenses issued on or after July 1, 2017:** After July 1, 2017, educators are required to pass the Foundations of Reading test (OAE 90) to be issued licenses in early childhood (preK-3) or middle childhood (4-9). Passing the Foundations of Reading test will not result in a reading endorsement and does not replace the requirement to pass the Praxis 5205 test for teachers who were issued licenses before July 1, 2017.

### ALTERNATIVE TEACHER QUALIFICATION OPTIONS

Ohio law provides alternative options to meet the Third Grade Reading Guarantee qualification requirements for teachers of the following categories of *third-grade students*:

- English learners in the United States less than three years with Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plans
- Students with Individualized Education Plans (IEP's) with Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plans

Teachers of these students will meet the Third Grade Reading Guarantee's teacher qualification requirements if they hold one of the credentials or completed one of the approved reading instruction programs in the table below:

English learners in the United States less than three years with Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plans	IEP students with Reading Improvement and Monitoring Plans
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) endorsement or license</li> <li>• Bilingual Education Endorsement</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Board Certification in Literacy</li> <li>• The Institute for Multi-Sensory Education's (IMSE) Orton Gillingham 30-Hour Comprehensive Course Plus 45-Hour Practicum</li> <li>• Success for All Foundation's Initial Professional Development Plus School Year Practicum</li> </ul>

- Voyager Sopris Learning’s Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS) (Online or Print and Face-toFace)
- Wilson Reading System Level 1 Certification

**Questions:** Contact [ThirdGradeGuarantee@education.ohio.gov](mailto:ThirdGradeGuarantee@education.ohio.gov) if you have any questions regarding the Third Grade Reading Guarantee.