

# TENNESSEE STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

## PROMOTION AND RETENTION POLICY

3.300

### Policy Sections

- I. Purpose
- II. Promotion of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students

- I. Purpose.

- (1) Each Local Education Agency (LEA) or public charter school shall develop and implement a promotion and retention policy for students grades kindergarten through eight (K-8) in compliance with T.C.A. § 49-6-3115, State Board Promotion and Retention Rule 0520-01-03-.16, and this policy. This policy further defines aspects of the State Board's Promotion and Retention rule 0520-01-03-.16 with regard to the promotion and retention of students in third (3<sup>rd</sup>) and fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) grade.

- II. Promotion of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Grade Students.

- (1) Pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-6-3115, a student in the third (3<sup>rd</sup>) grade shall not be promoted to the next grade level unless the student is determined to be proficient in English Language Arts (ELA) based on the student's achieving a performance level rating of "on track" or "mastered" (otherwise known as "met expectations" or "exceeded expectations") on the ELA portion of the student's most recent Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) test.
- (2) A student in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade who is not proficient in ELA, as determined by the student's achieving a performance level rating of "approaching" on the ELA portion of the student's most recent TCAP test, may be promoted to the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) grade if:
  - (a) The student is an English language learner and has received less than two (2) full school years of ELA instruction;
  - (b) The student was previously retained in any of the grades Kindergarten through three (K-3);
  - (c) The student is retested in accordance with Department guidelines before the beginning of the next school year and scores proficient on the retest;
  - (d) The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the beginning of the upcoming school year, maintains a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate at the camp, and the student's performance on the post-test administered to the student at the end of the learning loss bridge camp, as required under T.C.A. § 49-6-1502(4)(F), demonstrates adequate growth;

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1. Achieving adequate growth on the post-test administered to the student at the end of the learning loss bridge camp is defined as the student making at least five percent (5%) growth on the post-test compared to the pre-test. The pre-test score shall be derived from the student's spring ELA TCAP. If a student does not achieve adequate growth on the post-test, the student may be assigned a tutor during the student's fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) grade year to be promoted to the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) grade pursuant to paragraph (2)(b)(5) of this policy; or
  - (e) The student receives high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring for the entirety of the upcoming school year from a Tennessee accelerating literacy and learning corps (TN ALL Corps) tutor. "High-dosage, low-ratio tutoring" means a minimum of two (2) thirty (30) minute sessions per week with a one to three (1:3) teacher to student ratio. TN ALL Corps high-dosage, low ratio tutoring may be provided through the following options, in accordance with T.C.A. § 49-6-1507:
    1. A tutor recruited and trained through the Department's TN ALL Corps grant program; or
    2. A district recruited tutor who has completed the Department's TN ALL Corps training.
- (3) The parent or legal guardian of a student who is identified for retention in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade pursuant to T.C.A. § 49-6-3115 based on the student's achieving a performance level rating of "approaching" on the ELA portion of the student's most recent TCAP test, may appeal directly to the Department in accordance with the procedures outlined in State Board Rule 0520-01-03-.16 and Department guidelines.
- (4) A student in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade who is not proficient in ELA, as determined by the student's achieving a performance level rating of "below" on the ELA portion of the student's most recent TCAP test may be promoted to the fourth (4<sup>th</sup>) grade if:
  - (a) The student is an English language learner and has received less than two (2) full school years of ELA instruction;
  - (b) The student was previously retained in any of the grades Kindergarten through three (K-3);
  - (c) The student retested in accordance with Department guidelines before the beginning of the next school year and scores proficient on the retest; or
  - (d) The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the beginning of the upcoming school year, maintains a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate at the camp, and receives high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring for the entirety of the

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upcoming school year from a TN ALL Corps tutor. "High-dosage, low-ratio tutoring" means a minimum of two (2) thirty (30) minute sessions per week with a one to three (1:3) teacher to student ratio. TN ALL Corps high-dosage, low-ratio tutoring may be provided through the following options, in accordance with T.C.A. § 49-6-1507:

1. A tutor recruited and trained through the Department TN ALL Corps grant program; or
  2. A district recruited tutor who has completed the Department's TN ALL Corps training.
- (5) A student who is promoted to the fourth (4th) grade pursuant to paragraphs (2)(b)(5) or (2)(d)(4) must show adequate growth on the 4th grade ELA portion of the TCAP test before the student may be promoted to the fifth (5th) grade.
- (6) A student shall not be retained in 4th grade more than once.