

Murfreesboro City School Board

Monitoring: Review: Annually, in November	Descriptor Term: Promotion and Retention Based on TCAP Results	Descriptor Code: 4.6031	Issued Date: Click here to enter a date.
		Rescinds: IS 14	Issued: 12/13/22

General

In addition to the requirements in Board Policy 4.603, the school district shall comply with the additional requirements below for promotion and retention of students in grade three (3) and four (4), in accordance with the Tennessee Learning Loss Remediation and Student Acceleration Act and T.C.A. § 49-6-3115.

Decision of Retention – Third Grade¹

Third grade students shall not be promoted to the next grade unless they are determined to be proficient (i.e., receive a performance level rating of “~~on-track meeting~~” or “~~mastered exceeding expectations~~”) in English language arts (ELA) based on the student’s most recent Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) test.

Students who are not proficient in ELA may still be promoted if the following conditions are met:

1. A student in third grade receiving a performance level rating of “approaching” on the ELA portion of the student’s most recent TCAP test may be promoted if:
 - a. The student is an English language learner and has received less than two (2) full years of ELA instruction;
 - b. The student was previously retained in grades K-3;
 - c. The student is retested before the next school year and scores proficient in ELA;
 - d. The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the next school year, maintains a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate, and demonstrates adequate growth on the post-test at the end of the camp; or
 - ~~e.~~ The student receives tutoring for the entirety of the next school year in accordance with state law;
 - ~~f.~~ The student demonstrates proficiency in ELA standards by scoring ~~within~~ at or above the fiftieth percentile on the most recently administered state-provided benchmark assessment (i.e., the Tennessee Universal Reading Screener provided by the department) and the district provides tutoring services to the student during the entire fourth grade school year and notifies the student’s parent/guardian, in writing, of the benefits of enrolling the student in summer programming; or
 - ~~e.g.~~ The student was administered a state-mandated assessment pursuant to TCA 49-1-616(d) as a third-grade student and the student demonstrates proficiency in ELA based on the student scoring within the fiftieth percentile on the most recently administered universal reading screener approved by the State Board of Education or the Tennessee universal reading screener.²

2. A student in third grade receiving a performance level rating of “below” on the ELA portion of the student’s most recent TCAP test may be promoted if:
 - a. The student is an English language learner and has received less than two (2) full years of ELA instruction;
 - b. The student was previously retained in grades K-3;
 - c. The student is retested before the next school year and scores proficient in ELA; or
 - d. The student attends a learning loss bridge camp before the next school year, maintains a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate, and receives tutoring for the entirety of the next school year in accordance with state law.

Decision of Retention – Fourth Grade¹

~~Students in the following categories shall show adequate growth in the following ways before being promoted to the fifth grade:~~

- ~~1. A student who is promoted to the fourth grade due to receiving tutoring for the entirety of the next school year in accordance with state law or because of attending a learning loss bridge camp must maintain a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate; and~~
- ~~1. A student receiving tutoring for the entirety of the next school year in accordance with state law shall be required to show adequate growth on the fourth grade ELA portion of TCAP before the student may be promoted to fifth grade.~~

~~Students in the following categories may be promoted to fifth grade if they demonstrate adequate growth on the fourth-grade ELA portion of the TCAP test:~~

- ~~1. A student who was promoted to fourth grade due to receiving tutoring for the entirety of the fourth-grade school year; and~~
- ~~2. A student who was promoted to fourth grade due to attending a learning loss bridge camp while maintaining a ninety percent (90%) attendance rate and receiving tutoring for the entirety of the fourth grade school year.~~

~~If a student that was promoted to fourth grade under one of the provisions above does not demonstrate adequate growth on the fourth-grade ELA portion of the TCAP test, then the following shall occur:~~

- ~~1. The student’s principal shall convene a conference consisting of the following parties: the student’s parent(s)/legal guardian, the student’s ELA teacher, and the student’s principal.~~
- ~~2. The conference shall review the student’s fourth grade ELA performance to determine if the student should be promoted to fifth grade.~~
- ~~3. At the conclusion of the conference, a majority of the parties shall agree to one of the following:~~
 - ~~a. The student will be promoted to fifth grade and be assigned a tutor for the entirety of the student’s fifth-grade year; or~~
 - ~~b. The student will be retained in fourth grade. A student shall not be retained more than once in fourth grade.~~

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~~A student shall not be retained more than once in fourth grade.~~

Decision of Retention – Students with ~~Disabilities~~²Disabilities³

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Retention and promotion decisions shall be made on a case-by-case basis and in consultation with the student's IEP and/or 504 team to determine whether the student's performance on the ELA portion of TCAP was due to the student's disability. The TCAP retention requirement does not supersede the school district's obligation to comply with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. The school district ~~shall not retain~~ shall not retain a student based on ~~the a~~ student's disability or suspected disability that impacts their ability to read.

APPEALS³ APPEALS⁴

For students where retention is required per the additional requirements for students in third and fourth grade, parent(s)/guardian(s) may appeal this decision directly to the Department of Education in accordance with state law and State Board of Education rules.⁴

Legal References

1. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(7); ~~TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(8)~~
2. ~~Public Acts of 2026, Chapter No. 1030~~
3. 29 U.S.C. § 794 (Section 504); 20 USCA § 1400 *et seq.*; TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(7)(e). T.C.A. §49-6-3115
4. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(3); TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(6)(e); TRR/MS 0520-01-02-.17(7); TCA 49-6-3102(e)(1)
5. TRR/MS 0520-01-03-.16(7)(f)

Cross References

Grading System 4.600
Reporting Student Progress 4.601
Promotion and Retention 4.603
Attendance 6.200
Student Assignments 6.205
Homeless Students 6.503
Student Records 6.600

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